Monday, May 16, 2011 ★★ 15 sections / Vol. 26 / No. 171 P18 | www.inquirer.net | Mobile Alert: Text INQ STARTING to 4467 TODAY WITH 4H

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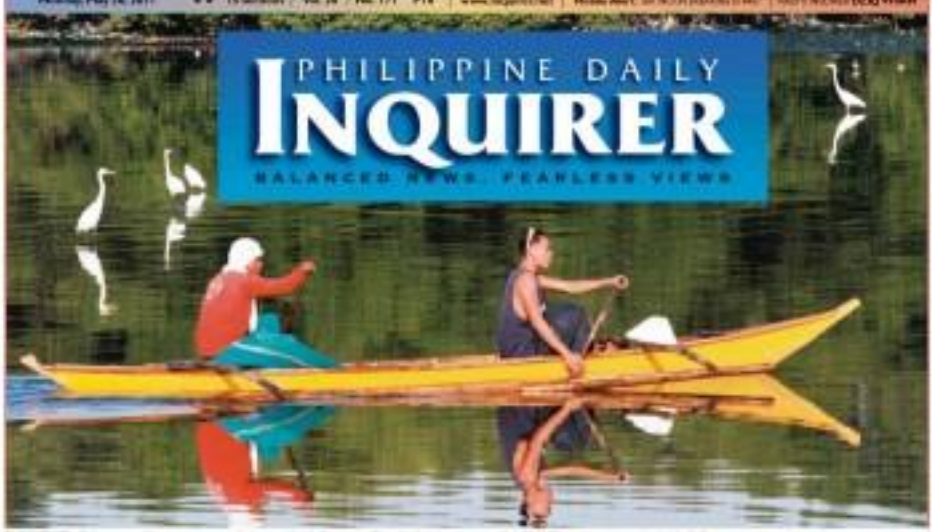

TIMBALOY/INQ Fishermen paddle past a sanctuary of mangrove birds in Paranaque City which is being cleared out for a P14-billion reclamation project in Manila Bay

₱14-B land project may lead to more Metro floods

By Mike Navales

NOT ONLY is it a disaster for migratory birds, but the Las Piñas-Parañaque Coastal Lagoon planned for reclamation also provides livelihood to thousands in the area and gives protection from flooding.

The 175-hectare lagoon that serves as home to endangered Philippine ducks and a stopover for thirteen species was declared a sanctuary four years ago by then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Environmentalists said local officials in the area are now urging the Aquino administration to respect the seven ministry to preserve use of Metro

P14-LAND, A12

Will P-Noy allow PLDT to call shots?

By Amando Doronila

SPARKLING disunity in the country over the merger of Philippine Long Distance Co. (PLDT), which has held a monopoly of the country's telecommunications industry for more than half a century, and Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc. (Digitel), a much smaller company, President Aquino has ordered an inquiry into whether the merged companies have gained undue

ANALYSIS, A10

Nothing official yet on Cabinet revamp

TIGHTROPE. Pilot has to start a row of wildlife ("hanger") killed in the Red Lake in Batangas following a drop in temperature. (See story on Page A22.)

Malacañang: Reports all speculations

By Christine O. Avendaño and Jocelyn R. Uy

NOTHING is official about news reports of Cabinet changes until the President himself says so.

This was Malacañang's reaction yesterday to a statement by a Palace source the other day that Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo and Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala may be on the way out in the wake of a controversy involving the smuggling of motorcycle vehicles and motorcycles into Mindanao.

Alcala said his conscience was clear, blamed his "detractors" for the report and vowed to get to the bottom of the smuggling issue so that those responsible would pay.

"All are just speculation," the Presidential spokesperson, Abigail Valte, said on government orders, commenting on the reported plan of Mr. Aquino to remove Alcala as head of the Bureau of Customs (BOC).

NOTHING, A10

Collision of RH, unborn child bills seen

By Christian V. Esguerra

AN UNSTOPPABLE force versus an immovable object?

Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago yesterday predicted a "head on collision" between her pet reproductive health (RH) bill and the proposed Protection of the Unborn Child Act, which seeks to ban contraceptives and provides mothers with health care.

The Senate committee on health and demography is set to conduct a public hearing on the protection of the unborn child bill (S.B. 1211) today.

But Santiago said the committee was merely trying to "accommodate" proponents of the measure.

She said that the bill opponents led by Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile liked the measure in an effort to delay passage of her population control initiative.

COLLISION, A10

No P-Noy problem with smoking ban—Palace

By Christine O. Avendaño and Penelope Endoso

THE WOES of smokers the President regrets is getting scarcer by every day, but Malacañang's chief lawyer, Presidential Legal Counsel Sergio Apostol, insists the real problem with that unit of measure—it's the law and not all haven't taken it."

Apostol's view came the said it is action to a statement from the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) requesting the

NO P-NOY, A10

With 'Rizal passport,' travel across nation

By Jocelyn R. Uy

BACKPACKING to nature lover P. Rizal's footprints may be a better—and pleasurable—way of browsing the noticed heroes than simply reading history books.

The Department of Tourism is encouraging Filipinos to travel around the country with a "Rizal passport" in hand, and explore designated up-old churches, ruins, shrines, parks and "Rizal-known beaches, among others, even through Rizal's eyes.

The department has started giving away brochure-passports to both domestic and foreign tourists for its recently launched "Lakbay Aral Rizal @ 150," a tourism heritage commemorative campaign centered on the celebrations of Rizal's 150th birthday on June 19.

The first 100 tourists to visit all 27 designated destinations connected to Rizal's childhood and journey to martyrdom may present their passports with the

WITH RIZAL, A10

ACROSS	BUSINESS	WORLD	LEARNING
Chavit son wins Ilocos election / A14	**Peso** seen rising to 42.30 to $1 in 3rd quarter / B5	**Truce** in Yemen halts week of deadly clashes / A28	**Pinoy-made** online game brings together learning, fun / H1

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PNP boosts security ahead of June 12

By DJ Yap

THE POLICE are stepping up security preparations around the country ahead of the Independence Day celebrations on June 12.

Philippine National Police (PNP) Director General Head Bonfilio said Special Action Forces and Regional Public Safety Battalions, along with other national police units, have been tapped to create troubleseeing activities to observe much of the 113th anniversary of the country's independence.

"I have already directed all troops to be always alert and should possible terrorist attacks in the aftermath of the death of Abdullah Sendot Sent Ludon," Bonfilio said in a statement.

Six Ludon was killed by US forces in Pakistan early this month, prompting the raising of alert levels in many countries for possible retaliatory attacks by his followers. Al-Qaida has also to regional and local terrorist organizations.

"The PNP will deploy all necessary security forces in order to ensure a safe and orderly conduct of the annual Independence day celebrations," Bonfilio said.

Bonfilio has ordered increased police patrols and checkpoints. Special civil disturbance management will be deployed in places where fiesta-festive day programs will be held. PNP spokesperson Agrimero Cruz said.

President Aquino is expected to lead the Independence Day rites at Rizal Park in Manila.

Simultaneous events will be held in various cities such as the Aguinaldo Shrine in Kawit, Cavite; Barasoain Church in Malolos City, Bulacan; Mausoleo de los Veteranos de la Revolucion, Manila North Cemetery; Gat Andres Bonifacio Monument in Caloocan City; Pinaglabanan Memorial Shrine in San Juan City; and the Pamantasan Mataas na Angkan City.

Similar activities, including a jobs and livelihood fair, will be held in cities and towns all over the country.

The PNP itself will observe its 42nd founding anniversary on June 8 with a civic-military parade at the Quirino Grandstand in Manila.

Thomas warns terrorists

Meanwhile, the US Ambassador to the Philippines Harry Thomas Jr. yesterday said the recent death of Bin Laden marked an "important victory for all who want to live in peace, security and dignity."

Thomas, speaking during yesterday's US Memorial Day rites at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial (MACM) in Taguig City, echoed US warnings to terrorist groups that "there will be relentless, relentless efforts to bring you to justice."

Listed in an interview, Thomas recommended the Philippine government for doing its part in the global campaign against terrorism.

Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff, Gen. Ricardo David Jr., said the Philippine military was conducting "continuous operations" against the Abu Sayyaf Group in Mindanao and hinted at the recent arrest in Mindanao of a suspected bombmaker from terrorist leader. He said Bin Laden's "little victory in our war against terrorism" but declined to provide details.

Thomas paid tribute to American and Filipino who had died in the battle against terrorism. He mentioned Sgt. Dion Nimmo, a Filipino-American serving in the US Army who was killed early this year by an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan.

Nimmo was "posthumously awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, the Navy and Marine Corps Service Medal for his actions before being laid to rest in the Philippines early this year," Thomas said.

US troops have been providing training, weapons and intelligence to Filipino soldiers battling the Abu Sayyaf since 2002. At least four American soldiers and civilians have been killed by terrorists in the country's south in the last 10 years.

Thai leader touched by PNoy mediation offer

BANGKOK—The Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva expressed his gratitude to President Aquino for offering to take on active role in resolving a political revolution in the renewed border conflict between Thailand and Cambodia.

In a news briefing at Government House here on Thursday, the Thai leader said he was "touched" by Mr. Aquino's offer to be a facilitator in possible talks between Manila and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen to end the border row that has claimed 10 lives since fighting erupted more a few weeks ago.

"First of all, we are all part of the Asean family. I mean that's (Mr. Aquino's initiative) very important and being co-founder of Asean, we know that the member can observe when this organization may be formed to actually press," Vejjaiva told Filipino and Thai journalists.

The Philippines, Thailand and Cambodia belong to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) along with Myanmar, Singapore, Brunei, Indonesia, Laos and Malaysia.

The Thai leader said it was critical "for Asean family members to express care for each other and therefore of its help to each other."

"Therefore ... as part of the same family, (whenever) there are troubles, I think it is only natural for good members of the family to express concern and to offer assistance when it is needed. And we are touched by that," he added.

Marlon Ramos

Gov't , overfishing blamed for reefs' loss

BIGGER overfishing and government neglect are to blame for the near-wreckage of the Philippines' coral reefs which save thousands country's ecological balance and food security, said Jose Ma. Lorenzo Tan, head of the Tubbataha Reefs Foundation (TRFI)—Philippines.

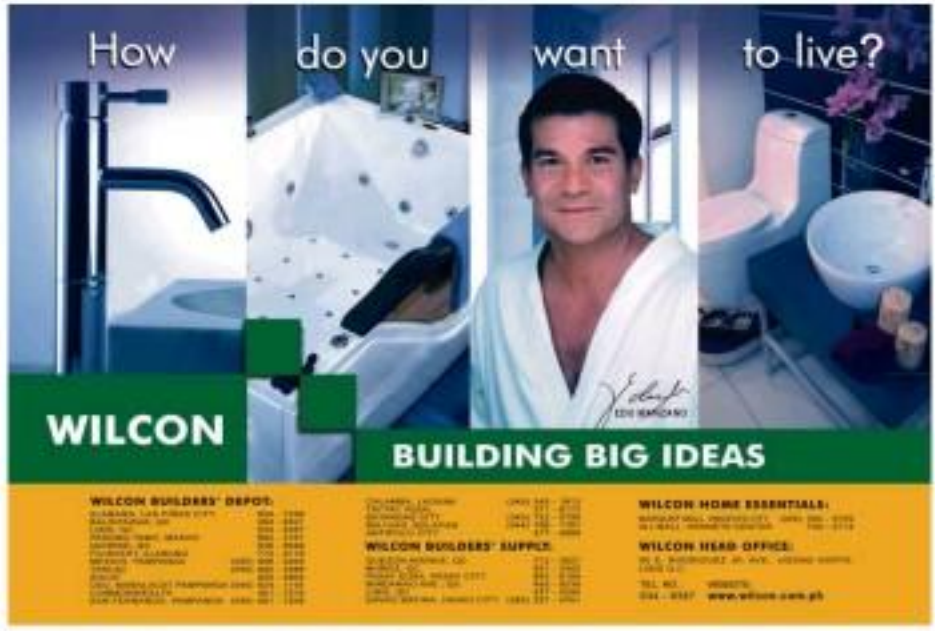
Tan said the government has failed to enforce its marine laws.

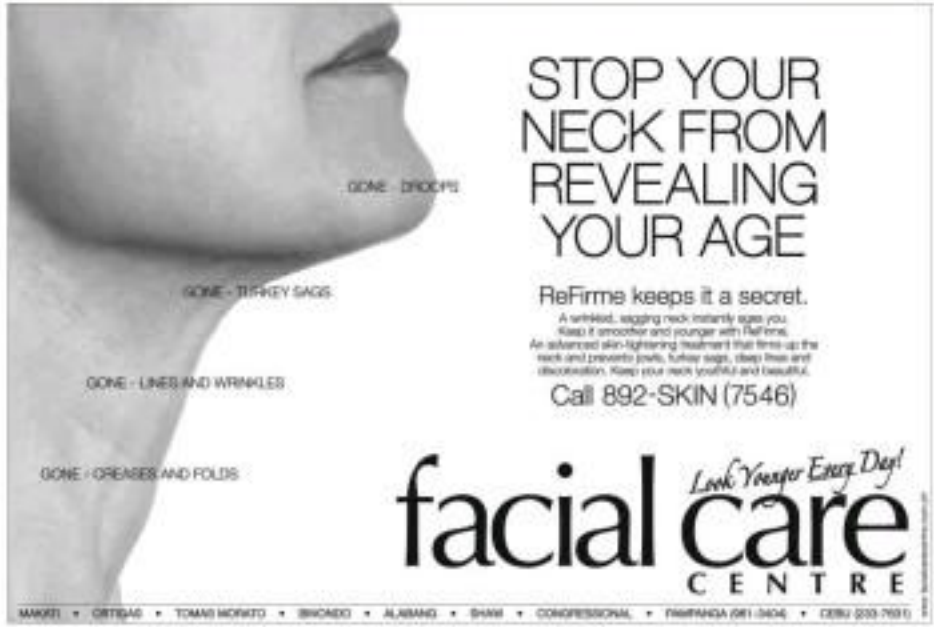
According to NSO, the Philippines used to have 27,000 square kilometers of healthy coral reefs. But 50 years of destructive commercial and unregulated fishing (and left less than five percent in excellent condition.

"But our present remains pristine and productivity has begun to return. The 'rape' of Cotabato's coral is not unique," it added.

PNWPhilippines joined the statement after Bureau of Customs officials confiscated black coral, seashells and dead sea turtles with conservated value of over P80 million last week. The items, which came from the waters off Cotabato and Cebu, were bound for markets overseas.

"From law enforcement issues to in place, improved and effective local regulation is essential, Tan said. Kristine L. Alave





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It will be rainy in Luzon, Metro

THE WESTERN side of Luzon as well as Metro Manila will be drenched in rain as the semi-low clouds due to a pre-seasonal southwest monsoon and a new low pressure area that formed off the coast of Zambales, according to the weather bureau.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said residents of Metro Manila and provinces on the western seaboard should expect intermittent downpours until Wednesday because of the monsoon and the outside of disturbance in the South China Sea.

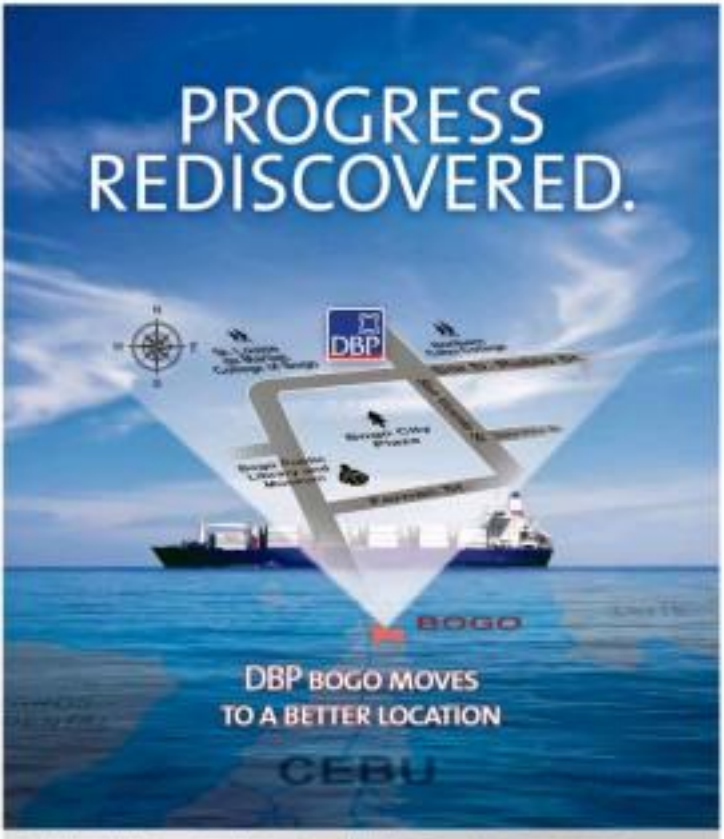
Pagasa forecaster Elaine Bonifer said the monsoon that was pulled inland by Typhoon "Chedeng" was "strong."

The southwest monsoon usually brings rains in the afternoon or early evening. But because the monsoon had intensified, it would be dumping rain even here in these hours, Bonifer said.

"The southwest monsoon will be the prevailing weather condition on the western side. It will bring moderate rains in short intervals," she said.

As of 2 p.m. yesterday, satellite images showed the low pressure area to be 590 km east of Iba, Zambales, Pagasa said.

At press time, Metro



Sans deal with PCGG, Lucio Tan's brod won't testify against him

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government (PCGG) and the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) have lost a "star witness" in its ill-gotten wealth case against Lucio Tan.

In a statement, the PCGG announced it would no longer present Mariano Tanenglian as a witness against his estranged brother Tan in Civil Case No. 0008 before the Sandiganbayan.

The PCGG, tasked to recover the ill-gotten wealth of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, his family and associates, made the decision after consulting with the OSG over the weekend. PCGG officials and Tanenglian's camp failed to agree on several contentious issues with regard to the would-be witness' request for immunity.

"The PCGG believes that majority of Tan's companies estimated to have a value of P50 billion is owned by the Marcos family.

PCGG officials had earlier acceded to the request of Tanenglian for civil and criminal immunity for himself, his family and his properties in exchange for his testimony against his brother, but with some conditions.

"From December 2010 to May 2011, PCGG and OSG representatives regularly met with Tanenglian and his lawyers and discussed the proposed testimony and the terms and conditions of the immunity agreement," the statement said. "But despite sustained efforts of PCGG and OSG representatives, no final agreement was reached regarding the conditions for the immunity requested by Mr. Tanenglian." *Aldwin Cadalpo*

Silent but 'deadly'–that's Sen. Lito Lapid

GRO of the quietest senators has turned out to be one of the most hardworking.

Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid has quietly filed a total of 239 measures, placing fifth among the most productive members of the upper chamber.

The most active senator is Mitos Independent (MI) bella Revilla, followed by Juggy Ejercito (JEJ), Manuel Villar (LNV) and Antonio "Sonny" Trillanes IV (LNV).

It was an achievement of sort for Lapid, who has not been as diligent as his colleagues in attending sessions and committee hearings or making his voice heard in debates. He even turned hours President Juan Ponce Enrile, who filed only 40 bills and resolutions.

Sen. Jinkee Arroyo came in last among the 23 senators with only 17 measures filed, according to records of the Senate bills and index division.

Lapid's proposed bills include the Silent Lake/Bag Act of 2011, Comprehensive Unlawful Hearing Law Research and Revelop-ment and Rehabilitation Act, Urban Agriculture and Vertical Farming Act, Corporate Social Responsibility Act, Kindergarten Education Act, and the Adopt-A-Wildlife Species Act.

Jennings made the records available to media, recognizing her achievements as a way of sending "the message that the main task of the Senate is legislation recognition." Check out our classified section.

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ALLY LIVE!

Be on top of school opening, Robredo orders local execs

DILG OIC Secretary Jesse M. Robredo has ordered governors, mayors and barangay chiefs to inspect the schools in their areas and monitor the prices of school supplies ahead of the opening of classes next week.

In a directive issued last week, Robredo also urged local officials to ensure the smooth opening of classes.

Robredo issued the directive in support of "Oplan Balik Eskwela" spearheaded by the Department of Education (DepEd) with the support of other government agencies.

More than 20 million students are expected to resume the SY 2011 public elementary schools and 7,274 public secondary schools nationwide.

"In the absence of their local school boards, local chief executives should work hand in hand with the local DepEd and other members of the Off-line Agency Task Force to make the necessary preparations for a smooth, orderly and peaceful first day of classes for our students a few days from now," Robredo said.

The secretary also urged the local executives to ensure adequate lighting in places where night classes are held.

"It would also be better if street lights were installed in areas where no schools hold night classes to prevent lawless elements from preying on our night students," he said.

Robredo also asked the officials to lead local information drives to encourage parents to enroll their children in school this year.

"Education is our best legacy to the young," he said.

Meanwhile, Kabataan party-list Rep. Raymond Palatino has urged the government to look into "hidden and questionable" charges in the miscellaneous fees dumped by schools.

Palatino spoke before a summit on education in Iloilo City on Friday. — DJ Yap, Medee P. Burgos-Jr., Inquirer Visayas

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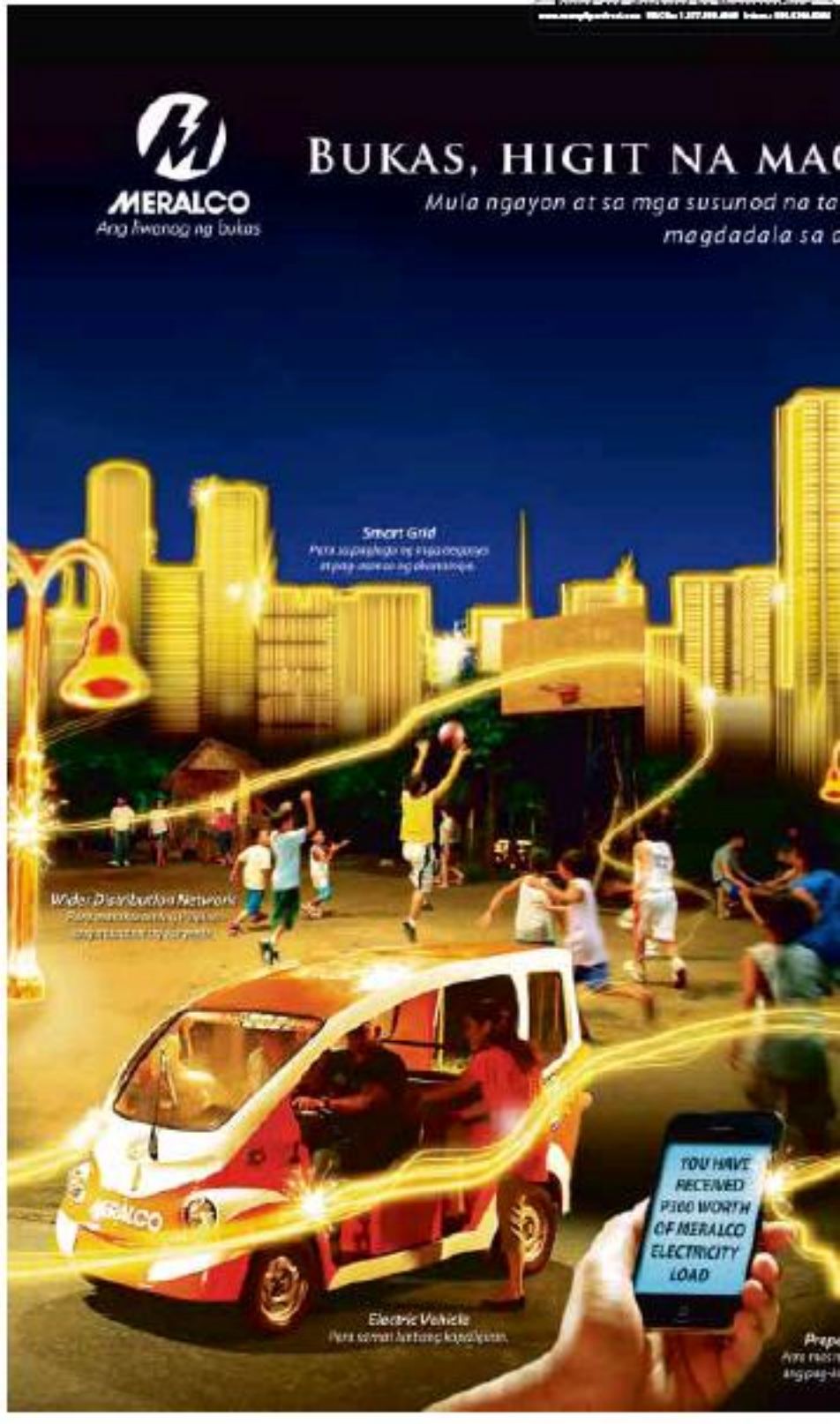
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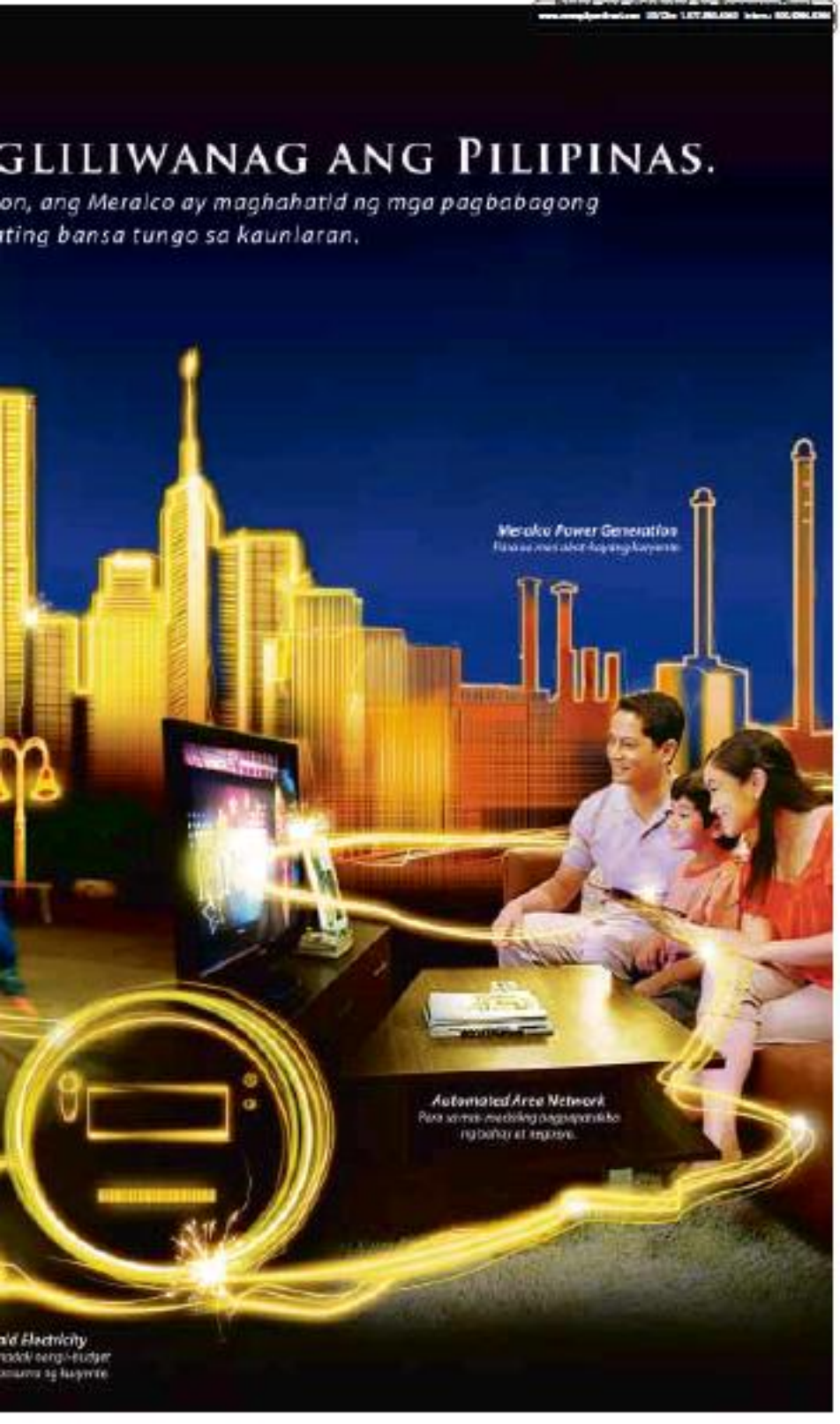

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

Chavit son wins Ilocos Sur poll

VIGAN CITY—Vice Mayor Ryan Luis Singson was proclaimed winner in the special congressional election in Ilocos Sur's first district held on Saturday, succeeding his brother, Ronald, who resigned after being convicted of cocaine trafficking in Hong Kong in February.

Singson, 38, son of Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, got 71,988 votes against his four opponents, actor Rolando Revilla, who got 30,648. He was proclaimed by the provincial board of canvassers at the provincial board's session hall early morning on Sunday.

Rhaine Salas, Ilocos Sur election officer, said the 63.5-percent voter turnout in the first district was "good," considering that only about 60 percent of registered voters in the country generally cast their votes during special polls.

The first district of Ilocos Sur, which covers the capital Vigan City and 10 towns, has 161,975 registered voters.

Singson, who was under his father's local party, Bileg, credited his party mates and the party's machinery for his victory.

"We really worked hard in the 12-day campaign period and did not underestimate our opponent," Singson said in a press briefing at the Singson family's Balaoto compound here on Monday night.

With Singson's election, the vice mayor said there would be re-aligned by Governor Jonathan Bagtasos, the top councilor of Vigan.

Salas said the vacancy that would be left in the 13-member city council would be filled in by a member of Singson's party.

Commission on Elections (Comelec) Chair Benjamin Bolinaot observed the conduct of the special election in Ilocos Sur on Saturday. He was accompanied by Comelec commissioner Elias Yusoph, the supervisor for special elections.

"The special election in Ilocos Sur is considered peaceful and clean," Yusoph told reporters over the phone.

He said the canvassing of votes ended just yesterday morning and the winners were proclaimed around 1 a.m.

Comelec and police officials did not report any incident of election-related violence during the conduct of the special election.

The National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) also cited the special poll exercise "peaceful, with no reports of violence or any untoward incident."

However, Namfrel said in its observers reported rampant vote buying in the days leading to Saturday's poll.

"In Vigan, for example, representatives from barangays reportedly went house to house campaigning for votes. In the end of the campaign, to give money in exchange of votes," said Namfrel.

Namfrel's provincial chair reported that last week, barangay officials themselves were giving away money in exchange for votes for one of the candidates.

"One chair also reported that the amount given to barangay captains was P5,000; P2,000 for barangay councilors; and P200 for heads of families. There was no report of whether votes were bought in kind," Namfrel said in its report.

In San Esteban town, the Namfrel provincial chair was asked on Saturday morning by a local Namfrel coordinator to send road coloadores anymore.

"Namfrel has always condemned the use of money politics in elections, and the utilization of barangays in vote buying, especially since barangays are supposed to be nonpartisan," the watchdog said in a statement. Arsenio Antig in Manila, and Lourdes Bolito A. Abad with a report from Cristina Arradon, Inquirer Northern Luzon

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Multicab drivers hit exclusion in ₱1,000 subsidy

BAGUIO CITY—Multicab drivers here have decried their nonexclusion in the government's ₱1,000 fuel subsidy program.

"Over 3,000 drivers of multicab units in Benguet City were not included in the government's ₱1,000 subsidy," Rolando "Lando" Bugal Francisco, spokesperson of the Alliance of Drivers and Operators Against Motorcycle Phaseout (Adohexpo), said.

Earlier, transport authorities have announced that motorists being used as public utility vehicles here would be phased out, along with older and dilapidated passenger jeepneys.

The decision was questioned by Adohexpo and is still pending implementation.

Francisco said like other public utility jeepney (PUJ) drivers, multicab drivers also wanted to be included in the fuel subsidy program. He said they demanded to question why they were not listed as beneficiaries.

"We are dismayed over the discrimination and utter lack of sensitivity of the government by excluding us from the allowance," Francisco said.

He said they were now gathering signatures for a petition to the Department of Energy "understanding that the ₱1,000 subsidy is not enough to cover for our lost income as a result of the recent oil price increases."

He said multicab drivers "felt discriminated against" and neglected. "As if we are not affected by the impact of increase in prices of oil products and petroleum products. Like other PUJ drivers, we also bear the brunt of such increase," Francisco said.

The surging fuel prices, Francisco said, was also the reason they joined the campaign for the scrapping of the Oil Deregulation Law.

He said they would hold bigger protest actions unless the government grants their petition. "We will press the regulatory government to address our demands," Francisco said. Inquirer Luzon, Inquirer Northern

Heavy rains cause landslides

TUBA, BENGUET—Heavy downpour entering the mind of the rainy season caused a rocky crime ruined in Barangay Camp 4 here to collapse on Friday, killing a small-scale miner and injuring two of his companions, reports from the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) in the Cordillera showed.

The OCD Cordillera said Joey Marcos, 23, a resident of Tadian, Mt. Province, was pinned when his mine tunnel collapsed on Friday noon. But rescue workers and officials of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau were surprised about the accident in Atbo Creek in Camp 4 here at 5 p.m., and Ronald Villa, OCD Cordillera operations chief.

Marcos' body was retrieved at 7 a.m. Saturday. Fellow miners Jeshane Bessa and Jelmo Dangpag-ok survived with minor injuries.

In Business, reports from the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) said **strong winds brought about by** Typhoon "Chedeng" **stopped the** time **holding a** cargo vessel in the port of **Basco** on Friday night, causing the vessel to run aground.

Capt. George Ursabia, PCG district **commander in** north Luzon, said the MV **J.L. Veronica** was **moored** to the pier at 10 p.m. but due **to** south's time stopped **due to strong winds.** It **drifted** toward the **shoreline** and ran aground some 457 **meters off** the **Basco** port.

He said the 38 crew members were **unhurt when** duty **was** rescued at 5:30 a.m. Saturday.

Ursabia said a **hole in the ship's** engine room was discovered after an inspection but **no** fuel tanks will contained 6,000 liters **of diesel.**

The vessel was not carrying cargo when the accident hap**pened because it had** unloaded gravel and sand at the pier on Thursday, he said.

Basco also triggered landslides in parts of the Cordillera, which displaced P500,000 worth of roads, reports from the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

A slide caused a section of Kennon Road in Camp 6, but road crews reopened this stretch of the road at 6:45 a.m. Saturday. Other major roads were still from Baguio City remain open.

A section of Halsema Highway in Mt. Province, which separates Sabangan last to ship produce to Metro Manila, was hit by a landslide on Friday but engineers managed to keep a lane open.

The Baguio Dalupiri Road was blocked by a landslide on Wednesday. It remained closed because the area continued to erode, OCD report said.

The Mt. Province-Ifugao road in Tabuk City-Kalinga, has been closed to traffic since Wednesday due to landslides.

In Ifugao, the Banaue-Hungduan-Benguet Road was closed to give way to clearing operations.

But the roads have been cleared for as a blessing by farmers in Isabela.

"The rainwater would be beneficial for irrigation and the generation of electricity," said Pierrestine Ann Bautista, deputy manager of the National Irrigation Administration's (NIA) Magat River Integrated Irrigation System (MRIIS).

Rains that began to pour on May 27 have soaked 80,000 hectares of rice and corn farms in Isabela, as well as farms in neighboring Cagayan, Quirino and Kalinga, said Sunlio Tumaliuan, Isabela agriculturist.

In Tuguegarao town, the rains helped raise the water level at Magat Dam to 167 meters above sea level (masl), still below the spilling level of 193 masl. **Elmer Ervinton Dangcio, Cristina Arradon and Hilarion Vinoya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon**

Gov. Marcelo C. Calagui (center) leads the inauguration of the new LA UNION FORMULATES NEW SECURITY PLAN

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INQUIRER

OPINION

Good enough

THE PERFECT is the enemy of the good. Nowhere is that truism beloved of motivational speakers more true than in legal cases, where the dispute resolution mechanism of the law allows litigants and their supporters to use unattended, either-or language, but the outcome is often a disappointing compromise dictated by the available evidence.

EDITORIAL

Case in point: The decision of the Pasig Regional Trial Court to award the Philippine International Air Terminal Co. (Piatco) the sum of $175.79 million, less the P3 billion already paid by the national government, as just compensation for the expropriation of the controversial Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Nia 3). An unhappy Piatco has already said it will elevate the matter to the Court of Appeals; an equally unhappy Sen. Jinkoy Estrada, who is chair of the Senate blue ribbon committee several years ago probed the allegations of wrongdoing that swirled around Nia 3, also cried foul.

Piatco, which sought a total of $846.41 million from the government, found the RTC decision underwhelming. "The amount the judge awarded is a pittance. The decision is totally unacceptable to the investors. Legal experts on expropriation easily see loopholes in the decision. It runs roughshod [over] certain basic legal rules and procedures," a company statement read.

This is an understandable position. The amount awarded is less than one-fourth of the company's valuation, and it already includes payments previously made. Piatco also contends that the RTC ignored the evidence it presented to support its claim.

Arroyo's stance is less comprehensible. "The Supreme Court declared the contract null and void," he said. "The Senate blue ribbon committee also declared it null and void. But we are going to pay $176 million." But Arroyo forgets that the same Supreme Court, even while negating the contract, ordered the national government to pay Piatco just compensation, for expropriating Nia 3 in 2005. That is in fact why the sum of $175.79 million (about P7.3 billion at an exchange rate of P40 to the dollar) is even less than it appears, because the government had already paid P3 billion—precisely in compliance with the Supreme Court ruling.

The inordinate emotions of both Piatco and Senator Arroyo provide us an opportunity to draw important lessons. The controversial company sought to place the decision in a greater context. "It is bound to imperil the much hallyhooed 'Public-Private Partnership' campaign of the Arroyo administration to lure private investors to fund its development projects." Its statement read. We do not agree. In fact, the original Nia 3 agreement was a model of very rule abusive investment protects your fund; the court's decision is actually a strong signal that the government can set things right. This is an incentive for more investment, rather than the obviously inflated claim is submitted.

In other words, the issue is not the government-created land, but the building that was built on it. The contract may have been voided, but Terminal 3 was built. It wasn't completed, but after some additional work, it is now in use. To the credit of both the current and the past administrations, the question of just compensation was never an issue.

Just compensation is tricky to define, but in this particular case we think it should not be construed to mean an excuse for Piatco to make a profit off its misfortunes (as the company closely intends, from its exaggerated claim, and as Arroyo clearly wants to prevent); not even to recover its costs in full (considering Arroyo is just flobby against); but only to recover its costs in part, as determined by the courts. That ought to be penalty enough.

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Audit the taxes of richest legislators

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

I HOPE long ago proposed that the salaries of government and senators be subjected to a test similar to the Bureau of Internal Revenue and I am glad that somebody, Rep. Ted Haresco, agrees with me. Haresco added that for the BIR to avoid being accused of harassment the filing of income tax returns against the lawyer-lawmakers, the same must be done to those on the other legislators.

Every year, the honest and the dishonest of Representatives submit to the press the SS and other statements and computations, respectively, based on their statements of assets and liabilities. The BIR should follow this by releasing to the press the amounts of income taxes paid by those in these legislators. Plus no harm done as to the tax returns of the other legislators but just to compare their wealth with the taxes they paid. It would be interesting and informative to the public how much their fellow legislators are paying in income taxes.

Right now, the public does not have the statements of assets and liabilities done? They were mandated to complete a public official's assets before and after serving the government. If the difference is too much, there does would be prima facie evidence of ill-gotten wealth. In fact, a member of the lower house can be impeached for betrayal of public trust and malfeasance in office. Why members of Congress have been charged with ill-gotten wealth because of this. Why members of Congress, however, nobody except the dismissed brothers, and not only because they are rich but think, they are sons of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

In the yearly list of the richest senators and congressmen have become nothing but a way for legislators to boast how rich they are. It is a shame that they have become so used to the public office rather than service while those who have already stolen billion times so that they have little or nothing when they leave public office. And it is easy to inflate assets, especially if you have plenty of money to hire lawyers and accountants to do it for you. Do you imagine how many people could have gotten many with had not the president sold into their offices?

The person who once described Congress as what Nazarin happened to resigned BIR chief Dunnigan Bureau Blue and to Commissioner Nazarin?

Repetitions

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

HISTORY REPEATS itself, both sister in three.

The first was during Cory's time. Not long after she came to power, the Marcos loyalists were out raising hell, burning effigies in much worse level. Minister time. Proof of that was the Mendiola massacre. Not only did the effigies get higher and the pole had gotten poorer, and their loyalists figures in there is.

When they began to say was that Marcos had borrowed billions of dollars in the names of his cronies, which was all supposed to be the property of the people were paying plus interest with one Cory's time, and would have to pay plus more interest with part Cory's time. What they forgot to say was that Marcos and his cronies had power much richer than money along with everything else that went before the first, saving the country on the trouble becoming the economic parish of Asia. What they forgot to say was that the difference between living during Marcos' time and Cory's time was the difference between hell and heaven. If they wanted to, they could describe it in small talked time Marcos and five times talk Marcos, not to say, but they might not mistake everyone else in their death with hell.

Of course this was so much harder for the time Cory took over. You cannot undo a decade and a half of economic depredation overnight.

The second is during PGMA's time. One sees the same in Cory's time, the Gloria loyalists are out raising hell, things have gotten worse from GMA's time. Proof of it is that unemployment is 4%, prices are higher and the hunger are getting hungrier. And they have the figures to show it.

What they forgot to say is that Gloria has moved more than 3 million and living conditions in the course of her long, vicious and desperate rule since January 2001 to May 2010, which did not keep prices from soaring anyway, and which did not added immeasurably to an already gigantic one. People are suffering during Gloria's time and will continue to go well past Gloria's time. What they forgot to say is that Gloria and her husband and their alleged progeny have made their country a hell, everything else the Marcoses weren't able to unloot from the lives, which made the country the most hated on the Southeast Asian country and the most hated in the Asian region. "The dirt can roll out on Barbarossa Kingdom."

What they forgot to say is that the difference between life during Gloria's time and Cory's time is the difference between hell and heaven—as in Saint Peter gave through the thieves, crooks and murderers to feel like heaven. If the Gloria loyalists want to, they can always try to build a Republic of Pampanga or Cebu and have Gloria as their dictator-chief, but they may not make everybody else participate in their psychodrama through them do not the experiments and and then use Lapid's decisions or Ochoa Cebu. And something of course that they manage to escape prosecution or their crimes.

Which is what all this is meant to do as well. It will be up to the Aquino administration's special to escape punishment for their kabalikan then, it is meant to allow the lawyers and their cohorts to escape punishment for their kabalikan now. The more subtle suppression being that those crimes will never have been committed after all, [redacted] and given knowledge to Ok, has they were. Ifs, has they are.

Boss or else is to excuse the Pilipinas gonna, tanto's failings so to say that the crimes have not coming only from the GMA camp. The administration criminal. The longer it took. The more resistance and materials are used. I'll have something to say about it sometime.

Boss is to one of the first acts of Interior to say doctor current, or blessings, for the religious—that two Aquinos, mother and son, would come to power in the wake of two despots, two despotisms of the land, one of the greatest losses in the country's history. People used to say during Marcos' time, "For the price who will come after Marcos, he will turn out to be retail," they people used to say during Gloria's time, "For the guy who will come after Gloria, he will turn out to be the dumbest retail." Cory did. P-Noy does.

The economy Gloria left to P-Noy is not a rainbows economy that has been sold to a new owner who with continued funds can continue to make money. It is the opposite. "Bottom management." It is a house that has been emptied and flogged to near-death and bequeathed to an impoverished nephew by a good-for-nothing aunt upon her death. You cannot make that house spring back to life overnight, or even in a few years. It is going to keep body and soul together. It will take a great deal of nursing to make it so. Along with a great deal of saving the deposit.

You can't blame everything that is wrong with the country on Gloria. For one case, and it ought to, blame has to be a group effort. The people of the country did not start getting unemployed during P-Noy's time, they started getting unemployed during Gloria's time. Hell, they started getting hungry—not another statistic in the newsday, but getting hungry on hungry at last—during Gloria's time, as a result of abandoning the farmers completely and relying on importations of rice. And making billions of bucks along with them.

Gloria is the cause, she is the effect.

Of course when you inherit a house that has been flogged to near-death, you have two choices. You can just leave it as the [illegible] Fault if it does anyway. Or you can try to restore it, saying the house is deserves a better fate than abandonment.

That is the part where you most earnestly hope history won't repeat itself.

Levels of discourse in the RH debate

Sounding Board

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

If THE debate on the RH bill appears often like standing and intermittent verging on the chaotic, it is largely because the participants in the debate frequently communicate on different levels of discourse, thereby sending out suggestions that rarely make the necessary distinctions needed to sort out the issues. The result can be like listening to people arguing on different radio frequencies.

But this is largely inevitable for as basic one reason why, for disagreements not legitimately to be different topics beyond, there's to be different who can manage the ordering of topics for discussion. Thus the debate can mix basic constitutional issues, family planning, population control and national development issues, drug control or regulation and even criminal process in a budget-cutting mechanism.

The failure on the constitutional issues already often abandon material for levels of disagreement. The core issues arise from the two establishment clauses and the free exercise clause.

The non-establishment clause, popularly but not always precisely referred to as separation of church and state, can mean different things for different people. The core meaning is that it prohibits the establishment of a state religion. Consequently the Philippines is not a state subject to the Catholic church of its privileged position accorded under Spanish sovereignty. Corollary to the denying down of the privileged position of the Catholic church has been the recognition of the equal position of other religions.

Beyond the prohibition of a state religion, nonestablishment also means the prohibition of the use of public resources for the support or for the preference of religion. But public resources may be used for a legitimate secular purpose even if incidental benefit to religion might ensue. The use of public money for summary, for making anti-contraceptive devices available to the poor falls under this aspect of the non-establishment clause and consequently does not violate the religion clause.

Within the context of the RH debate is concluded, since the RH (MD) assisted purposes it avoids, it can be accommodated within the non-establishment clause. But the more delicate issue is the free-exercise clause.

It limits the freedom to act according to one's religious belief and the freedom from being compelled to act contrary to one's religious belief. But there are those who argue that the RH debate is not about religion but about ethics and natural law. Even assuming that this is so, one must still ask, "Whose natural law? Whose ethics? Compelled?" The Constitution also protects "natural law" belief as declared. Even though the religion clause, duty through the free speech clause, where speech is involved, and through the due process and equal protection clauses when actions are involved. I myself hold that government has to go to the Constitution includes beliefs that are not traditionally classic such as Buddhism, ethical culture and secular humanism. I view protection of religion in the Constitution as encompassing both theism and what philosophers call "moral ground of one's being" and which give life meaning and direction.

Another constitutional issue is the right to life. It involves trying to identify when the begins and when there is contraception and when abortion. The most laborious argument I have heard to date is that contraception is unscripted murder! Whoever said that deserves a medal for I know no value discovery the debate on the right to life includes controversies about family planning, population control and their relation to national development. Controversy on these subjects in the Philippines has had a long history involving the Catholic Church, government agencies, non-governmental organizations and international organizations.

Related to these are the education as well as family life and family values. But as one author has written, "The change is made that the RH Law is contrary to the Filipino family. On the basis of more than 22 years of personal and social work in Negros, and more seven years sponsoring natural family planning programs, I can say that the family is already a great risk—and not because of contraception."

Also at the constitutional issues, there are also what I might call pharmacological issues. There are claims, for instance, that there are contraceptive drugs in the market that cause abortion or are carcinogenic. What I would like to see is an official declaration by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that it has not found any of the drugs that are said to be abortifacient or carcinogenic so that they can be withdrawn from the market or that can be subjected to medical regulation. So far I have seen only one drug identified as abortifacient, namely Postinor. This was withdrawn from the market by the Food and Drug Administration after the identification of drugs claimed to be abortifacient or carcinogenic should be administrative in a manner that is fair to drug manufacturers and to those who rely on them for legitimate medical purposes.

Finally, however, the fate of the RH bill will be determined by Congress. Already we can see that some members of Congress are hedging their bets. The issues involved in the RH bill are complex. The politicians are also thinking of the next election. Some of them will probably better weigh of relief if the RH bill disappears from the scene on the way the impeachment of the Ombudsman disappeared from the scene.

Shieka's vindication

Kris-Crossing Mindanao

Cordis Ingoni T. Zarate

"MUMA! AYUNG kinabuti ki was like my life ni," quipped Carina Rin, team working on her ear-worn classic after watching last week's Dawa premiere of the seminal indie film "Shieka," which tackles a mother's agony of losing her four children to the Diablo" called the Dawao South highway.

Indeed, "Shieka" —a poignant tapestry of the anguish faced by students of soulless emerged Mindanao, from Jolo to Davao—is for the most part based on the life of Nenet Cabilla, an Alfa 8 drummer in Cacao City pressing in the new mother called Rambutan, where several haunting scenes of the film were also shot last year.

In fact, when Inlanwarpo around winning indie film director Arnel Mercado was unstoppable in hailing "Shieka"—his third full feature after 2008's "Hanggang sa Wasi" (The Earth's Wish, per) and 2009's award-winning "Tinapay Boys"—he only had Nenet Cabilla in mind, to appreciate and tell her life and story through the film as a tribute to her and "all the mothers" "para sa mga nanay na may pinagdaanan [who] live to tell the message of hope."

"Shieka's" narrative revolves around Nenet (in the life of a teacher in Jolo who lost her husband owing to the war while raising her two young sons Rendon and Jeneza. To shield her sons from the horrible effects of the war, Nenet was forced to migrate to and seek the "safe" refuge of Davao City to the midst of struggling to survive—the harsh reality of the urban jungle, as her lawyer, Rendon found that the "Diablo" still looms large to her dreams not only her beloved sons but even her very being, her very own humanity.

Saying the awards night of the 34th Cassal in last on May 17, "Shieka" did not win the Best Picture plum, it went to another indie film, the Cebuano-Hong Kongpo in Dinamiko" (The Dream of Dinamiko).

But "Shieka" bagged three major awards: Best Actress for inspiring Ella Acion to bringing Shieka, Best Screenplay for Director Arnel and Ben Edwin for Willie Ngo and two others.

"I'm just overjoyed! I'm still in shock and disbelief, since the RH (MD) assisted purposes it avoids, it can be accommodated within the non-establishment clause. But the more delicate issue is the free-exercise clause.

It limits the freedom to act according to one's religious belief and the freedom from being compelled to act contrary to one's religious belief. But there are those who argue that the RH debate is not about religion but about ethics and natural law. Even assuming that this is so, one must still ask, "Whose natural law? Whose ethics? Compelled?" The Constitution also protects "natural law" belief as declared. Even though the religion clause, duty through the free speech clause, where speech is involved, and through the due process and equal protection clauses when actions are involved. I myself hold that government has to go to the Constitution includes beliefs that are not traditionally classic such as Buddhism, ethical culture and secular humanism. I view protection of religion in the Constitution as encompassing both theism and what philosophers call "moral ground of one's being" and which give life meaning and direction.

Another constitutional issue is the right to life. It involves trying to identify when the begins and when there is contraception and when abortion. The most laborious argument I have heard to date is that contraception is unscripted murder! Whoever said that deserves a medal for I know no value discovery the debate on the right to life includes controversies about family planning, population control and their relation to national development. Controversy on these subjects in the Philippines has had a long history involving the Catholic Church, government agencies, non-governmental organizations and international organizations.

Related to these are the education as well as family life and family values. But as one author has written, "The change is made that the RH Law is contrary to the Filipino family. On the basis of more than 22 years of personal and social work in Negros, and more seven years sponsoring natural family planning programs, I can say that the family is already a great risk—and not because of contraception."

Also at the constitutional issues, there are also what I might call pharmacological issues. There are claims, for instance, that there are contraceptive drugs in the market that cause abortion or are carcinogenic. What I would like to see is an official declaration by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that it has not found any of the drugs that are said to be abortifacient or carcinogenic so that they can be withdrawn from the market or that can be subjected to medical regulation. So far I have seen only one drug identified as abortifacient, namely Postinor. This was withdrawn from the market by the Food and Drug Administration after the identification of drugs claimed to be abortifacient or carcinogenic should be administrative in a manner that is fair to drug manufacturers and to those who rely on them for legitimate medical purposes.

Finally, however, the fate of the RH bill will be determined by Congress. Already we can see that some members of Congress are hedging their bets. The issues involved in the RH bill are complex. The politicians are also thinking of the next election. Some of them will probably better weigh of relief if the RH bill disappears from the scene on the way the impeachment of the Ombudsman disappeared from the scene.

Destructive plastic bags

Commentary

Dr. Esther L. Banzon

Apparently, in the market, putting the object of the transaction inside the plastic bag signals the end of the business deal

WHICH PARTICULAR place in a metric, a town or a city repeatedly gathers a lot of people any time of the day (especially early in the morning or late in the afternoon)? The answer is Market! Market! Market!

Yes, in this place, you presume to caught by all kinds of fish, vegetable, fruit, meat or dairy product. Here, you also see people gossip or doing things that aggravate the country's problems: garbage disposal, flooding, pollution, perilous city hazards or diseases, and of course, political corruption. Other less are seen, you get to observe buyer-seller conversations that make plastic bags part and parcel of any commercial agreements. Apparently, putting the object of the transaction inside the plastic bag signals the end of the business deal.

Plastic bag for burger, plastic bag for appetizer, plastic bag for barbecue, plastic bag for this and that and so on and so forth. Every item, big or small, cheap or costly, wet or dry, goes into a plastic bag. Not just a single item, say, one canteen, one apple, or one sweater, and right away the seller opens a plastic bag and shoves the item into this ubiquitous but problem-giving container.

In fact, a seven-money item like fish or chicken arrives not only into one plastic bag but into two or three. This style of packaging is placed inside a first plastic bag, then in small, thin and transparent one; this is done because the second plastic bag that is bigger, thicker and translucent, serves better. Finally, the already-twice-covered, gulping going is placed inside a third plastic bag that is the biggest and the thickest, and with a sturdier handle. To accommodate a mixture of purchased items, this third one, the "major major" plastic bag, stands to be the strongest among the three plastic bags.

So, here, the (one man). Counts the number of people buying things from the market plus the number of items they take home—rice, fruit, fresh vegetables, eggplants, tomatoes, coconut, etc.; meat, meat parts, beef, lobsters, etc.; fish, fish parts, shrimps, etc.; poultry, eggs and, concoct: sardines, milk, coffee, soaps, oil, etc. Or, one those are bought at a big supermarket, use a single one of these remanufactured items in exempt from storing down into three different plastic bags. Thus, every day, each market buyer accumulates a huge number of plastic bags in his or her house. Multiply the number of market buyers with the approximate number of plastic bags taken home by the buyers, and what do you get? Thousands and thousands of used plastic bags in a city or town!

One thing more: Not all these used plastic bags are disposed of properly. Light as they can also easily blown by the wind, several of these plastic bags travel from place to place or dangle from one structure to another. Further, the use of these plastic bags in some barangays in town favors discussions somehow in the easy and speedy removal of these plastic bags.

In some places, we see plastic bags lodging with garbage that people purposely hang from the trunk of a tree. Try examining some sewers in the city or in several one-to-grade subdivisions in Metro Manila, and we're sure to find in front of two or three houses used in a hanging garbage can. With many colored plastic bags hanging from every side or from the lowest branches, the partial tree appears like a Christmas tree.

Think of trees carrying heavy loads of garbage used the period of a city garbage truck collectors or their exposure to pollution and ventilation. Definitely, trees put in this partial situation, lacking vent and care from people around them, refuse to grow robustly and abundantly in any area. Trees living in this manner cannot discharge the beneficial effects of trees or human up.

Many bad have written and said about climate change, going green, planting trees and so on. Likewise, media have appeared in the form of opinions, words from the Senate's spending of a law prohibiting the excessive production and use of plastics. Complaints of the damaging effects of the excessive and excessive use of plastic bags, the Senate must work on this plastic bill in an expedient and fast-tracked manner. I hope one provision of this law will impose a penalty on people caught hanging plastic garbage bags from the trunk of a tree, and on residents using plastic bags as banners to decorate during town fiestas.

Dr. Esther L. Banzon is a faculty member of the College of Architecture at the University of Santo Tomas.

An unlikely duet—Pacquiao and Hill

Reveille

Ramon J. Farolan

FROM CHICAGO, see flew to Vancouver just in time to enjoy the Victoria Day weekend in British Columbia with another granddaughter, Cielo, who turned 8 last month. Cielo spends every Friday from English to do a curiously unrelated to the Early French Immersion School in Richmond.

Victoria Day celebrates Queen Victoria's birthday on May 24. The only daughter of Edward, Duke of Kent, she became Queen at the age of 18 and her reign, which lasted some 5 1/2 decades (1837-1901), was marked by industrial expansion, economic progress, imperialism, women's rights and greater participatory politics. While in mine it was seen as an era of complacency and puritanism, the Victorian years represented an age of confidence and dynamism that produced many of the great changes that brought about the modern world.

Victoria Day is a public holiday across Canada and is always observed on the Monday before May 25, thus ensuring a long weekend for the public.

It is also the time for me to consider paying to plant a maple sprouts of observing some of our national holidays so as to provide those day weekends instead of breaks in the middle of the working week.

Incidentally, the Chicago Bulls lost to the Miami Heat in the Eastern Conference championship series of the National Basketball Association. I would have been happy to see the Bulls win but on the other hand, it was good to see Dwyane Wade and Lebron James lead the Miami Heat to victory. Wade's performance was truly outstanding in the Heat's 103-96 victory in the fourth game of the Miami-Chicago championship series.

* * *

We are spending the long weekend in Victoria, which is cool and temperate island. I use to be startled with temperature, the second largest city on Canada's Victoria is the capital of the province and can be reached by ferry boats from the Lower Mainland.

The famous Butchart Gardens continues to attract millions of tourists from all over the world. One can host a cruise to the Gulf Islands, Port Angeles, Seattle, Victoria's Inner Harbor and Filipino cheers while enjoying the cool, spring weather and watching among rows and rows of colorful tulips and evergreen saplings.

The Sunday edition of the Times Colonist reported a total of fourteen (14) Filipinos who were killed in May (5), 7 million pledged." The holder of the winning coin ticket worked as a logger for many years before joining a steel company as a warehouseman. The story not only earned the name of the winner but also that of his wife and son. The family picture was splashed on the front page of the paper.

Will the Times Colonist ever publish Philippine news-winners and news stories of having their names and photos published on the front pages of our newspapers?

* * *

"Sometimes when we panic" is the title of an article in Maclean's, one of Canada's leading national magazines. This fall, an internationally renowned author and singer-songwriter, describes his new affair with touring, which we met over semester about the Nike Town years with his real-life drummer/son.

In 2008, however, he came across a piece in the Toronto Star about a [phenomenal boxer from the Philippines who had won several titles in different weight divisions.

"Manny Pacquiao's rise from boxer-crushing poverty to the top ranks of his sport was astounding ... But something at the end of the article made me choke on my morning coffee and damn near fall off my chair. After every fight, the article said, the boxer, who is now a lawmaker, likes to sing karaoke. Yesterday When My Heart Was Young," a song penned by Bill in 1977.

Now friends, Bill and Pacquiao have re-recorded the song not once but several times. They have also filmed a 30-minute documentary tracing Manny's improvement as a boxer to eventually become the greatest pound-for-pound boxer in the world.

May 7, 2011:

"The Manny I know is quiet, humble, humane. Whenever he grows me, it's always the same, 'Sir Stanley,' he whispers thankfully. 'I am so happy to see you.' Before and after the Pacquiao-Mosley fight, I preferred the combination of the promoter's TV interest. Bingham asks about you have the breaking of ribs, the quiescent cartilage of what was once the boxer's nose, the distraction of the jaw, the horrifying 'ugly' that the boxer sees. Hallucinatory after receiving a resounding left hook to the jaw, or kidneys, or head."

Harrowing match concert 2:30 am:

"Manny avoids one of his bedsheets, within straight up to me, shakes my hand, and holds it firmly yet gently as he sings with somebody pretty the first verse of 'Sometimes When We Touch.' He's listening."

He sang 3:30 am:

"Manny's been on stage turning out famous American pop ballads for almost an hour. He shocked by his endurance, his vocal strength and endurance. Giving it all he's got, he appears to be gaining more energy as he plows through the set. Now he's singing Neil Diamond's 'Sweet Caroline' ... he's. 'Boo-hoo-hoo-hoo' 'Boo-hoo-hoo' ... is his. 'You are not me. 'Manny begins singing the first verse and I'm watching him, waiting for his vocal cue as to when I should jump in ... I'm immediately taken by the beauty of our vocal blend, our tones pleasing off each other as though we're brothers ... We climb out back together and rode them towards the screaming fans. This is Elvis."

Reception (till 6) Odyssey (May 5):

"Instructions Please 900 Touch. Manny Pacquiao sings for saving Cleo 800"

They Said

Money-making arrangement

"Ironically, anyone who can afford it will pay under the table for the so-called privilege of living 'in' it. We cannot prohibit or prevent it, then let us regulate it. Let us make money from it but not gouge."

—Atty. Mel Sta. Maria, Manila Bay Reclamation: From Bring the Sea Ashore to Bringing Ashore to pay for better reclamation plans

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Why we need security of tenure

LETTERS

I'D LIKE to point out the little-known fact that the hotel fund covering Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the former head of the International Monetary Fund and erstwhile probable French presidential candidate, is a union member created by a contract that guarantees job security.

The celebrated case of sexual assault could have gone the way of many... unreported and unknown—others if the victim had not been an empowered woman because of union protection and insistent of women. Personal courage and union membership gave the immigrant worker from Africa the guts to fight a rich and powerful man.

The hotel fund works in the bottled blond whose employees are organized and represented by the New York Hotel Trades Council, AFL-CIO, a signatory to the collective bargaining contract guarantees security of tenure for their members, which means they cannot be fired without reason.

This incident underscores the need to provide job security for workers in general and tenants in particular. That we call on Congress to pass the proposed security of tenure (SOT) bill. The SOT bill is due to be reported out by the House committee on labor for plenary deliberation. We expect the SOT bill to be put to consideration in the 15th Congress.

Let's remind the SOT bill to be put to consideration in the 15th Congress.

Let's remind the SOT bill to be put to consideration in the 15th Congress.

Let's remind

Nothing official yet on revamp in Cabinet

From page A1

"It's not useful to keep on speculating, especially if it goes nowhere. It only becomes official once the President confirms it," Valte said on the report coming from an unidentified Palace source.

"So, at this time, I think we're all guessing," Valte said in Radio DzRB.

Valte said any announcement on a Cabinet change was "a matter of time." She did not elaborate.

Another job

A source close to Mr. Aquino told the Inquirer on the other day that Alvarez "perhaps will no longer be" in the Bureau of Customs in July and that he might be replaced by former Camarines Norte Rep. Lisaniyang Nazona-Chavez or former Cagayan Rep. Manuel Mamba, both allies of Mr. Aquino in the Liberal Party.

The source had added not to be identified for lack of authority to talk to the media.

The report that Alvarez's days at the BOC may be numbered followed Mr. Aquino's statement on Friday upon his return from a visit to Thailand that he might reassign an official in his Cabinet to another job if the official failed to resolve certain issues affecting his agency.

Mr. Aquino said he would still need to talk to the official.

'Height of cruelty'

Alvarez, in a statement, said his hands were clean and that the reported smuggling of luxury cars and motorcycles into Mindanao happened before his time.

"Given a clean conscience, I believe I am in a good position to get to the bottom of this, not only to make the guilty parties pay for their crime but also ... to ensure that reforms, new implements and safeguards are put in place to ensure that something like this does not happen again."

Stressing that he had been in office for only 11 months, Alvarez added: "The clear conclusion is that those vehicles entered customs long before my appointment as customs commissioner."

"The alleged smuggling of luxury cars and motorcycles did not happen under my watch as it is the height of cruelty for people with vested interest to make me pay for somebody else's sin of commission," he said.

Alvarez pointed out that the vehicles that the National Bureau of Investigation had seized from Lyndel Allan Bigcas were registered at the Land Transportation Office branches in Tabuk, Lanao del Norte, and in Molave, Zamboanga del Sur, in 2009 and 2010, respectively.

No let-up

On Friday, Alvarez said he had ordered the bureau's Internal Inquiry and Prosecution Division to investigate the incident, which may involve some customs personnel.

In his statement, Alvarez said that "until the President tells me my time is up, there will be no let-up in my campaign to effect the needed reforms and renewal in the BOC."

He claimed that, under his command, the Bureau of Customs had been breaking the collection records of all previous commissioners "while making great headway in our campaign to make smuggling unprofitable."

He also cited a Pulse Asia study which, he said, showed "a dramatic decline" in the corruption rating of the bureau.

'Balikbayan boxes'

Bigcas, a Mindanao-based luxury vehicle dealer, faced an inquiry at the House of Representatives recently after the NBI discovered 29 smuggled luxury cars and big bikes in his possession. They included a P12.4-million Mercedes Benz "disguised" as supposedly stolen from Hollywood actress Sharon Stone.

Bigcas told legislators that he brought into the country "cheap cheap" parts of expensive motorbikes which were delivered in "balikbayan boxes" through the door-to-door system, avoiding payment of customs duties.

In a recent interview, Mr. Aquino expressed dissatisfaction with the Bureau of Customs despite its increased collections. He specifically mentioned the controversy triggered by the smuggled vehicles.

The President believed in that occasion that there would be changes in the bureau.

"The collections have increased, but I'm not satisfied," he said.

Citing the case of the smuggled vehicles, he noted that "the first statement from the Bureau of Customs was they [officials] didn't know how they got here ... They were the watchmen of these goods. How come they didn't know what happened?"

Mr. Aquino said at the time that the push he would expect changes in "about two months."

'Other lapses'

The Malacañang official who told the Inquirer of Alvarez's possible removal said the Mindanao smuggling case wasn't the only issue.

"It has many other lapses," the official said. With a report from Norman Bordadora

On jail VIP issue, P-Noy to spring surprise

By Marlon Ramos

PRESIDENT Aquino has promised to spring a surprise when he finally decides on the issue of "special treatment" given VIP inmates at the New Bilibid Prison (NBP).

"With regard to the issue of special treatment, let's just say that although I'm not into surprises, I'm planning to surprise somebody," Mr. Aquino told reporters in Bangkok just before returning to Manila on the weekend after a two-day visit to Thailand.

"Because it's a surprise, I won't tell you anything," he said, smiling.

Reminder to Dickson

Mr. Aquino assured that legal processes would be observed in determining the fate of Bureau of Corrections (Bucor) director Ernesto Diokno.

DIOKNO

A longtime friend of the Aquino, Diokno drew flak after news broke that former Batangas Gov. Jose Antonio Leviste, a convicted killer, had been able to go on personal stops outside the penitentiary without official authorization.

Mr. Aquino said he would wait for the recommendations of the fact-finding panel created by Justice Secretary Leila de Lima before passing judgment on Diokno.

He said he had instructed Diokno that he was particularly concerned about the VIP treatment accorded some influential inmates in the NBP when he appointed him to his post.

"You know by Diokno had been through a lot. He started as deputy director director of the (NBI) during the time of my mother (Cory Aquino). So if we're talking about loyalty, there's no question about it," Mr. Aquino said.

"From what I remember, I already told him about the special treatment. I'm sure he knows me. So, I have told you before, it's important for me that everything is done according to the process," he added.

Chance to explain

Deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte said she expected the justice department to submit to the President soon its findings and recommendations on the Leviste "lapses."

Mr. Aquino said he could not understand why Diokno failed to stop Leviste's trips outside prison.

"I have given him a chance to explain his position, if it's not satisfactory then only one thing would happen," Mr. Aquino said, without elaboration.

"I grew up during martial law when only one person's rules were followed. Now, we have the policies and legal processes that should be observed."

Mr. Aquino also said he had ordered a legal study on proposals to relocate the NBP from Muntinlupa City to Tanay, Rizal.

My warmest greetings and heartfelt Congratulations to the graduating class of 2011 of the ABE International Business College, ACLC and the AMA International Institute of Technology. Your batch represents our nation's hopes and your achievements today mirror our country's triumphs on the righteous path to genuine, lasting change. I urge you to take this opportunity to give back to the people who helped shape you into the upright, well rounded citizens that you are now. I call on you to continue working with us in rebuilding our country under the daylight of honesty, transparency, and integrity. With our collective efforts, we will build a better and more prosperous Philippines.

His Excellency Benigno Aquino III
President, Republic of the Philippines

Commencement exercises goal the journey toward fuller potentials of the youth. Thus, it is my honor to congratulate the graduating Classes of 2011 of ABE International Business College, ACLC and AMA International Institute of Technology. Education remains one of the cornerstones of our country's progress. Educators and parents must work hand in hand in advocating the capabilities and talents of the youth. That is why my felicitations also recognize parents and teachers who have tirelessly devoted their time and resources in providing education and support to our industrious students. Congratulations and Mabuhay learning lahat!

Jejomar Binay
Vice President, Republic of the Philippines

My sincere congratulations to all the graduates and the parents who have worked so hard to see this day. Seize the opportunity you now have to shape your future. As you become tomorrow's leaders, you must learn to adapt to change, understand and value differences and diversity and respect the responsibilities that come with corporate work or entrepreneurship. Remain strong and steadily move towards a greater goal!

DR. MARIA E. ACELLE V. OBA
Chairman Emeritus, AMA Education System

My sincere congratulations to the Graduating Class of March 2011. As you move on to the next phase of your life, I urge you to stay true to the values and ideals that you advocated and held in you. Welcome the changes, challenges and opportunities that will come your way. Be an inspiration to many. Always give your best time in everything that you do for yourself, for your family and for our country.

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Collision of RH, unborn child bills seen

From page B1

"The two bills run counter to one another," Santiago said in Filipino in an interview at ANC radio. "They're on a head-on collision."

Santiago said today's hearing was called to accommodate Enrile's group so it could not complain that it was disregarded.

Enrile filed Senate Bill No. 2867 as early as Sept. 27 last year. His counterpart, then Senate President Pro Tempore Jinggoy Estrada and Majority Leader Tito Sotto.

Sen. Ralph Recto filed his own version of the bill on Nov. 15, 2010. The latest version was filed by Sen. Bong Revilla on Jan. 17.

Santiago filed her SB 2370 on Aug. 11, 2010, while Sen. Pia Cayetano filed his version of the reproductive health bill only on March 14 this year.

Not a priority

Told about Santiago's prediction, Recto yesterday extended cautionary, but he insisted the two bills could be consolidated despite the perceived differences.

"We will stick to our position," he told the Inquirer by phone.

Santos ruled out the possibility of the RH bill being discussed by senators in plenary before Congress goes on break nine days next week. "We still have to take up many other

SANTIAGO

ENRILE

things. It's not a priority."

Santiago said that the proposed bill by Enrile et al. was meant to block the sale of any type of contraceptives in the country in the guise of protecting the unborn child.

"They should have just called it the 'anticontraception bill' so it would have been clear to the public," she said.

Enrile's bill seeks to "extend the mantle of legal protection to the unborn child from the moment of conception."

The proposed measure also aims to "enhance the health of the mother by avoiding any means that may adversely affect the viability of the unborn child in all stages of fetal development."

The bill seeks to guard against abortifacients, which the bill defines as "any device, drug, formulation, substance, practice or procedure intended to damage, injure, interfere with the development, or disrupt at conception the life of the unborn child or otherwise induce abortion."

Protracted battle

Santiago foresees a protracted battle for the passage of her pet measure.

She said groups he ve against the RH bill would likely go to the Supreme Court for final arbitration. "So we'll probably see this bill becoming a law after the end of 2011," she said.

For today's hearing, the Senate committee on health has invited 11 resource persons, including Health Secretary Enrique Ona, Isaac Bid, Ma. Socorro Cotanco "Dodot" Jodoman, Executive Directive Ofrenea of the Philippine Commission on Women, and Chair Loretta Ann Rosales of the Commission on Human Rights.

Will P-Noy allow PLDT to call shots in telecom industry?

From page B1

advantage over other industry players.

The swallowing up of Digitel by the telco giant has stoked fears in local business circles that the PLDT takeover of the facilities of the highly lucrative San Gabriel, a Digitel subsidiary which entered the market in 2003 and started offering 24/7 unlimited calls and text messaging, may undercut rates charged by two other companies and stifle competition.

Analysts said Globe Telecom Inc. has said that the merger may wipe out the level playing field in the telecommunications industry and upended the return to the old PLDT monopoly.

The problem as far as monopolistic trends are concerned is that the PLDT chair is Manuel V. Pangilinan, who founded First Pacific 20 years ago and remains the top honcho of the Hong Kong-based holding company.

Pangilinan is also the chair of Maynilad Water Services Inc., Metro Pacific Tollways Corp., Medical Doctors Inc., Metro Pacific Communications Inc. and Meralco Rail Transit. These are strategic utilities which First Pacific controls.

With this scope of enterprises, First Pacific controls a network of industry leaders in the Philippines and has a finger on every aspect of Filipino life. Its interests range from telecommunications, water, infrastructure, roads, hospitals, health services, power distribution (Meralco), mining (Philex Mining Corp.), public transport and media industry (ANC).

It also plans to expand into railways and airport operations by bidding for several government projects under the Aquino administration, and likewise controls one of the biggest food lines in Indonesia.

Most powerful

Its business empire in the Philippines has expanded in scale and extent that the conglomerate headed by Pangilinan, comprising even those of the traditional Ayala and Ayala Corporation, including the Lopez and Ayala families.

Pangilinan has become the most powerful economic person in the country, who is unelected and holds no public office.

The rapid pace and expansion of Pangilinan's business conglomerate in the Philippines has not remained unnoticed by the business community, which has been somewhat attuned to the oligarchic pattern of wealth concentration since the time of the wealthy blocs based on agriculture, particularly sugar as a cash and export crop, natural resources, mines, forestry and fishing, which have loomed the bases of political power in the country.

The merger has raised fears that it has not only consolidated PLDT's monopoly grip in the economically and politically strategic sector but it has also led to the elimination of a level playing field in the telecommunications industry.

Globe's opposition

Rivals Globe, particularly Globe, have denounced the PLDT-Digitel merger as a throwback to the dark ages when one dominant player was free to dictate pricing without having to deliver better services to consumers. Globe has asked the government to intervene and stop the merger.

According to Globe, the deal would result in the PLDT Digitel group removing 70 percent of the market in terms of revenue and subscribers. Seven out of 10 mobile users in the Philippines are estimated to be on the PLDT Digitel network.

Globe emphasized that the threat to free competition and, ultimately, to public service and the common good, more than baseless intervention by the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) to check PLDT's alleged predatory raids on the market perpetrated through so-called street-beat deals.

Pangilinan's promise

Pangilinan has promised that San Gabriel's low-priced services would be maintained and improved. According to PLDT, its takeover of Digitel would be good for the industry and would result in better services for subscribers at even better prices.

PLDT claims it argues that the P74.1 billion deal was a market transaction in which the telco giant agreed to acquire a 51.5% power stake in Digitel and undertake a mandatory tender offer to minority investors. According to PLDT, the deal does not require intervention by the NTC, the government's regulatory agency.

Pangilinan's assurances to keep the charges down have not silenced the skepticism of consumers that PLDT's aim is to choke San Gabriel's popular unlimited calls and text services and eventually junk up the telco giant's charges.

Gov't intervention

Pangilinan is viewed in some business circles as an aggressive and acquisitive economic utopia builder whose activities can only be stopped by state intervention.

The issue facing the Aquino administration is whether the state would step in to level the competitive playing field in the telecommunications sector.

For differently, will Mr. Aquino allow a private conglomerate to call the shots and determine the rules of competition to the communications sector that had been liberalized and "democratized" by then President Fidel V. Ramos in Republic Act No. 7925, or the New Telecoms Policy Act of March 1995.

The act was legislated to substantiate Article XII, Section 10, of the Constitution which provides that "no franchise shall be granted or permitted monopolies when the public interest so requires. No combinations in restraint of trade or unfair competition shall be allowed.

Near monopoly

When President Aquino ordered the DOJ and Department of Science and Technology to look into "any unfair advantage" that the PLDT-Digitel mergers may have gained over other players in the industry, he said the "limited competition would result in a near monopoly in the telecom sector."

He noted that "monopolies were inherently inefficient" and said that his administration "would look after the interests of the public, please subscribers in particular, in telecom."

Mr. Aquino's message to First Pacific, PLDT and Pangilinan is clear. The Philippine state lays down the rules of business, not private business. And the President does not want the state to be the captive of private business in a free-enterprise capitalist system.

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Weather change led to Batangas fishkill, says BFAR

PUMPONG tour boss removes dead "bangus" floating on Taal Lake in Batangas. AP

By Marvin Deiza Lacaba
Inquirer Southern Luzon

BATANGAS CITY—A sudden drop in temperature that lowered oxygen levels in the coast of the rainy season in Taal Lake has killed 752.61 metric tons of fish worth P57.226 million since Friday, officials said yesterday.

The fishkill was the worst climate change disaster in Batangas, according to Renante Ad Hilando of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) office in the province.

The loss in Talisay town's side of the lake involved 275 MT of tilapia (milkfish), 160 MT of siganid, 80 MT of bangus and 2.6 MT of tangue (sugpo). Imelga in Laurel town, 148 MT tilapia in aquaculture and 12 MT of bangus in Agoncillo.

Del Mundo said the fish retrieved the report of a decrease in oxygen level in the lake on Wednesday, and the calls soon flooded the hotline the next day.

"If the dissolved oxygen drops and it rains, the fish cannot breathe and it runs, the fish cannot breathe and it runs, the fish cannot breathe and it runs

With 'Rizal passport,' travel across the country

From page A1

appropriate stamps in the National Historical Commission of the Philippines's website, official "Kalakbay ni Gat Jose Rizal" certificates and other tokens.

The campaign gives interested vacationers exactly a year, starting this June 19, to complete their trips to the selected historical Rizal sites across the country to obtain the certificate and win other prizes.

But stamping will continue even after June 19, 2012, according to the tourism department. Prize steps from domestic air carriers to books and shirts.

"Every Filipino should avail of this chance to get to know our national hero better, to learn from his experiences and to appreciate the many significant places in his life," Tourism Secretary Alberto Lim said at the launch of the program two weeks ago.

The itinerary includes a visit to a farm in Kamputhaw, Tambunan del Sur, which Rizal acquired from a grateful Moro patient and diligently tended on weekends with his students and to Biñan Church in Biñan City, which the hero-wannabe-turned-hapless-Don-Juan of his beautiful paintings. (See images this page.)

The program would also guide travelers to the old site of Ateneo Municipal de Manila in Intramuros, Manila, where Rizal studied, to his private cell at Fort Santiago, and to the San Fernando train station in Sto. Tomas, Pampanga, where he was said to have taken off to visit friends in the provinces and recruit members for his La Liga Filipina in the 1890s.

The other sites selected for the program include Calamba Church in Laguna, where Rizal was baptized, Rizal Shrine in Calamba and in Dapitan, Zamboanga del Norte, and historic Santa Cruz Beach, where Rizal first set foot in Dapitan during his exile.

"Our foreign visitors are welcome to participate and share our pride. With increased tourist traffic to these areas, the project helps spread the economic benefits to the host communities," Lim added.

The tourism heritage project is a joint collaboration of the tourism department, National Parks Development Committee, Heritage Conservation Society, National Historical Commission of the Philippines, Intramuros Administration and Cebu Pacific Air.

LAKBAY RIZAL DESTINATIONS

BUKAS NA LIHAM SA KATAAS-TAASANG HUKUMAN
MULA SA MGA KUMAKATAWAN SA NAKARARAMING MAMAMAYAN NG LUNGSOD NG LUCENA

Kami, pong mga mamamayan ng Lungsod ng Lucena ay vato magpahayag ng aming damdamin sa mangyayaring kapalaluan at kalibahan dito sa aming lungsod. dulot ng desisyon ng Comelec En Banc noong Mayo 20, 2011 na nagpapawalang bisa sa Proklamasyon ni Mayor Barbara Ruby Claudio Talaga at pagpabor sa pag-apo ng kasalukuyang Vice Mayor Roderick A. Alcala.

Ang sulliranin po sa aming lungsod ay nag-ugat sa mga naunang kaganapan at desisyon ng Comelec En Banc at Comelec 2nd Division.

Batay po sa Resolution No. 8917 na pinirmahan ng buong Comelec En Banc ay may bisa ang pagbalik-bilang kandidato ni Mayor Barbara Ruby Claudio Talaga sa kanyang nauwa na si former Mayor Ramon V. Talaga, Jr. Ito po ay pinagtibay din ng desisyon ng 2nd Division ng Comelec sa pagbasura ng inihaing "Petition for Annulment of Proclamation" ng tumalong kandidato sa pagka-Mayor na si Philip M. Castillo at Petition-in-intervention ni Vice Mayor Roderick A. Alcala noong January 11, 2011.

Subalit, ngayon bakit bigla nalang nabalewal ang mga nabanggit na desisyon? Ang mga taga-Comelec po ay kilala naming may integridad na mga opisyal, ngunit bakit may biglang pagbabago sa mga naturang desisyon ng Comelec?

Ito po ang mga katanungang labis na gumugulo sa isipan ng mga mamamayan ng Lungsod ng Lucena. Ang mandato po na ibinigay namin kay Mayor Barbara Ruby Claudio Talaga ay sapat na upang manatili siya sa pwesto sapagkat siya po ang aming inibotan at iniluklok.

Sa panahgitn matnin ay nakatuon po sa pangyayaring ito ang kredibilidad ng Comelec En Banc at 2nd Division. Ayaw naming isipin na ang mga nasa kapangyarihan ay kayang sumapi sa katiwalaan na ang pag-upo ni Mayor Barbara Ruby Claudio Talaga bilang alkalde ng Lungsod ng Lucena ay nanyon na rin sa kamalian ng Isitio.

Kami po ay nananawagan na kung ang usapin ito ay desisyunan ng Katas-taasang Hukuman, ang kalutasang ito na inaasahan sa buong kalunsuran ng Lucena ay maibibigay na ng kalwanagan at patas na desisyon para sa kapakinabang naming mga mamamayan na naghalal kay Mayor Barbara Ruby Claudio Talaga bilang aming Punong Lungsod.

Sa usapin publikia sa Lungsod ng Lucena, kanning mamamayan ang nagiig inwestring lokisima, sapagkat ang Mayor namin na si Barbara Ruby Claudio Talaga ay nan-nilang pasiliran sa nangkalin.

Kami po ay nanawagan sa integridad ng Katas-taasang Hukuman. Sana po, kanning mga nagbalot at naglalalok kay Mayor Barbara Ruby Claudio Talaga ang siyang mas higit na mapakinggan at maipanwalasan sa usapin ito at hindi ang Commission on Elections.

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Aplus METRO
Editor Abelardo S. Vhersby

DID YOU KNOW

Today, May 30, is the 119th (with abbreviation of the month's first national color, the late painter Fernando Amorsolo, born in Paco Manila on 1892, economic rules are still in 3rd grade-class of the University of the Philippines School of Law. Amorsolo taught for 38 years. He popularized the image of the "Malagong Filipina" and extensively portrayed traditional Filipino landscapes. In 1972, he became the first artist to be named a National Artist. **Richard Chandab, Inquirer Research**

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MPD tops Metro SWAT competition

By Miko L. Morales and Jaymee T. Gamil

TALK about a comeback.

Almost a year after their unit's botched attempt to rescue a busload of Hong Kong tourists being held hostage at the Quirino Grandstand, two Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) teams from the Manila Police District (MPD) topped the annual SWAT competition of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) which ended yesterday.

NCRPO director Chief Supt. Alan Purisima said the MPD SWAT teams' achievement showed "an improvement [in] their skills."

"That's what we want to achieve in these competitions. These are designed for ups, and units is exposed to different scenarios," he told the boysters in a phone interview yesterday.

According to NCRPO spokesperson, Senior Supt. Dionardo Carlos, the MPD's Team 2 bagged first place in the annual competition held among the different SWAT teams of the five police districts in Metro Manila.

The winning team was composed of SPO2 Ezel Balbuena; PO3 Orvic Lobrin, PO2 Zaber Lagman and PO1 Nathan Joe Salomon.

The MPD's Team 1, on the other hand, clinched the second spot while the Southern Police District's Team 2 placed third.

All the eight members of the two winning MPD teams, four saw action in the Aug. 23, 2010 hostage taking at Rizal Park which left eight Hong Kong tourists and the hostage-taker dismissed former Insp. Rolando Mendoza, dead.

After the botched rescue attempt, the MPD SWAT team was severely criticized for its failure to resolve the situation without any casualties.

Purisima, meanwhile, noted that the situations the participants were exposed to were "simple" and that he wanted more "complicated scenarios."

"The competitions help us assess the capability and capacity of our SWAT units to make sure that the skills they acquire in training would become part of their performance," he said.

In a statement issued last week, Purisima

MPD, A22

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Manila police on a mission to clean up the city

By Jeannette I. Andrade

MEMBERS of the Manila Police District (MPD) are literally and figuratively adding the city streets of garbage. Every day from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., they patrol their assigned area (their area of responsibility) with brooms and dustpans.

"When people see us sweeping the streets, they smile and want to shout it. They sometimes ask us if we have also joined the MMDA (Metropolitan Manila Development Authority) as a sideline but we don't mind," MPD Station 6 commander Supt. Jimmy Tobias told the Inquirer in a recent interview.

"Everybody in our station gets involved in the [daily] cleanup, even on weekends. We sweep the streets ... within our AOR (area of responsibility)," he encourage. Domestic solid-waste matters and violators in our area is made it a habit to tidy up their own backyard," he said.

The program, a project of Mayor Alfredo Lim and MPD officers in charge and deputy director for administration Senior Supt. Allan Gutierrez, was launched on May 17 this year as part of the city's "Linisin, Ituwid, Ingatan, Ilayo ng Tama" campaign.

It has earned even the support of newly installed National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) director Chief Supt. Allan Purisima who said he planned to adopt and implement the campaign in other areas in Metro Manila.

"Of course, the main purpose of the project is to clean up the environment. If the environment is clean, there is a decision effect particularly when Manila are attracted to visit the country and other policemen are inspired towards well and patriotic better in a clean environment," MPD spokesperson Chief Insp. Erwin Margarejo said.

He added that it was also a way for Manila barrios to lead by example.

"There are people who do not have discipline despite all our ordinances on antilittering and smoking. They are really stubborn and hardheaded. That's the MPD leading the cleanup drive, we expect and hope that our constituents will realize that they are not doing enough for the environment..." Margarejo pointed out.

All of the MPD's 11 police stations are involved in the campaign, deploying around 10 to 15 men to street-sweeping, market-sweeping and other public places within their jurisdiction every day.

Margarejo said that all personnel who part in sweeping the streets.

"It is a form of our being out in the community, a reminder that we all have to do our part for the city and for the environment," he added.

At the launching of the program that month, members of the MPD Station 1 waited their turn for broom on Jose Luis Jaime while those from Station 2 lined up on C. M. Recto Avenue and in the vicinity of Tabora Hall in Divisoria. Station 3 policemen poured themselves up to the challenge in the Carriedo area while Sampaloc policemen swept the streets in the University Belt, particularly outside the University of Santo Tomas.

On the other hand, policemen from MPD Stations 5 and 9 teamed up to clean the perimeter of the San Andres Sports Complex while those in Ermita-Malate district with Police Station 7 personnel manning designated on Remedios and Sampaloc streets while members of the MPD Station 8 from Santa Mesa handled Pinaglabanan and the vicinity of a supermarket on Pioneer Magsaysay Boulevard.

On Juan Luna Street, near the Pandacan Church and oil depot, Station 10 operations wielded broom while Station 11 personnel went on cleanup duty in the Binondo area and a portion of Ma. Cruz.

According to Margarejo, a war zone in Manila is live up to its title as the country's capital. "If you will compare Manila with other capital cities worldwide, the capital cities in the have their own clean ... It should be the same here," he pointed out.

The MPD spokesperson recalled that he had a Turkish visitor in Manila several months back who commented, "Is Quiapo captured? Why is to like this? It is very dirty," he admitted to that he was slightly embarrassed by the remark although he agreed with the observation.

"It is true that we have to say captured," Margarejo said as he added, "We have to take care of Manila as the frontline of the country. After all, the capital city is the reflection of the entire nation."

MANILA Police District (MPD) officer in charge Senior Supt. Allan Gutierrez (right) and Supt. Ferdinand Quitcorio of the MPD Station 11 (left) observe the operation on Carriedo Street in Sta. Cruz.

SENIOR Supt. Allan Gutierrez (left), MPD officer in charge, hoses away the dirt in Binondo, Manila as other policemen sweep the street.

DOJ asked to question ordinance granting tax relief to telecom firm

By Jayson T. Gantil

A DISAGREEMENT among Manila City government officials over the recent approval of an ordinance which grants tax breaks to a telecom firm has been elevated to the Department of Justice (DOJ).

Last week, city legal officer Renato de la Cruz withdrew the declaratory relief petition he filed with the Manila Regional Trial Court and took it to the DOJ.

"Cases filed with the DOJ will be resolved within 60 days whereas if we leave it to the courts, it will take longer," De la Cruz said in a phone interview.

He asked the DOJ secretary to challenge the constitutionality of Ordinance No. 8229.

The ordinance, which was approved by then acting mayor, Vice Mayor Francisco Yuko Moreno? Domingson, and the city council, exempted Smart Telecommunications Inc. from paying the city government franchise and real property taxes on all machinery and equipment in its cell sites in the city.

It was passed on April 26 while Mayor Alfredo Lim was on vacation in the United States. On May 10, Lim filed a declaratory relief petition asking the court to nullify the ordinance for being unconstitutional. Named as respondents were Domingson and the city council.

Councilor Joel Chua, meanwhile, endorsed De la Cruz, saying the ordinance had passed De la Cruz's office and even bore his countersign. "The ordinance went through normal procedures. No official correspondence was given by the mayor's office or any representative to the city council during the first, second or third reading," he said.

"They know about it and could have actively participated from the start. We weren't hiding the city council's decision. We even held in leadership forum," Chua said.

De la Cruz, in a letter to the Inquirer, said that when he signed the ordinance, it was only meant to denote review and not approval or recommendation.

"[I] was only furnished a copy of the said ordinance after the third reading for recommendation to the Mayor after [it] was already approved by the City Council. [I] initialed the said ordinance, not to signify approval but only to note that [it] underwent review." De la Cruz clarified.

He added that he even raised a "strongly dissenting legal opinion" addressed to Domingson on April 26, asking that the signing of the ordinance be deferred and the matter left to Lim because of constitutional issues and the possible loss of revenues for the city government.

De la Cruz insisted that the mayor's office had 10 working days to vote the ordinance from April 26 but Domingson approved it even before the deadline which prevented Lim from "exercising his veto power."

Chua earlier defended Domingson, saying the ordinance would have "signed into law" anyway after 10 days of inaction from the mayor's office because Lim returned to the country on May 6.

He added the declaratory relief petition could not have been filed by the supposition that the council had passed the ordinance merely to favor a chosen.

WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY DAD

A man flew his son's chair across the pond barefoot during a stroll at the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City.

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METROBRIEFS

Charge against consultancy firm dismissed

THE charge of syndicated and large scale illegal recruitment filed against the officials and staffers of a consultancy center have been dismissed. But in a resolution promulgated week, Makati City Assistant Prosecutor Joel Tesdas recommended the filing of four counts of estafa against Philip Leonard and his wife, Barralyn, the owners of International Student Advisors (I.S.) Inc. / ISE, after they failed to comply with their obligations to four of the 16 complainants who filed the case against them last year. Makati City Prosecutor Edgardo Carpio would file a motion for reconsideration. Raly's office at the Philippine Building on Ayala Ave. (Read: In Makati City was notified last year by residents of the Intl. International Crime Division of the Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group after 18 job seekers, mostly nurses, complained that the firm collected more than P400,000 each in exchange for high-paying jobs in the United Kingdom. Reliefs, however, were left out. Instead, the nurses had issued receipts to cover the payments made by applicants who used to follow and processing fees. Under its functions and Exchange Commission registration, ISA is limited in providing advisory and marketing consultancy services for training college and university courses in foreign countries. The complainants, however, alleged that "ISA engaged in recruitment activities under the guise of consultancy services." In his resolution, Tesdas said there was probable cause that Barralyn processed consummate high-paying jobs to the 16.

Jamilyn P. Endaya

Call center agent's condo unit burglarized

THIEVES broke into the condominium unit of a call center agent in Quezon City, taking something but the room had "Broken into," a police report said recently. PO2 Mona Angeles of the Station 10 (Fairview) Station 2 said Ron Gimmadi, 30, a resident of Espacio Bernardo Condominium on Diamond Street, Novaliches, discovered the burglary on Saturday morning after he came home from work. He said he found the screen window torn from its frame and his laptop computer worth P60,000, an iPod, eyeglasses and other personal belongings missing.

Aaron C. Corrupio

MPD tops...

From page A11

said the competition would "test [the] chosen quarters leader techniques of all participating MMD teams which [includes] potentially life-threatening armed engagements."

A total of 46 teams, composed of four men each, participated in the contest.

Standard by the Inquirer, MPD SWAT head, Chief Insp. Jong Bonoan said that half of the members of the winning MPD teams were among those who took part in the Quezon Cumbersome rescue. The rest, he added, were from a new batch of SWAT men.

Bonoan, who was appointed only after the hostage taking, said his men's swift victory only proved that they were "well-trained."

"My personnel are battle-test. My heart has been on training them while there are no deployments or what happened at Luneta won't happen again," he added.

"The victory will go a long way to motivate us. We're still in the training and delivery of equipment but despite that, we were still able to do it," Bonoan said.

"I am proud of the MPD SWAT. With this, we hope the negative impression of them will become positive again. Even if this is just a competition, it proves our hope are offered," MPD director Chief Supt. Roberto Rosqueta said in a phone interview.

The achievement only serves to show that the MPD has "a board of police officers that are good," he added.

'Berluskahn': Similarities seen in 2 big sex scandals

STRAUSS-KAHN

BERLUSCONI

ROME—One has been charged with attempted rape, the other is on trial for having allegedly had sex with an underage prostitute.

The accusations may be different but the scandals surrounding Dominique Strauss-Kahn and Silvio Berlusconi reveal underlying similarities.

Critics say the moral of the "Berluskahn" story is an age-old one: the corrupting influence of power and the foibles of a class of male politicians.

"The parallels jump out at you," said Oriana Malpede, a social psychology professor in Milan—one of several commentators who have compared former International Monetary Fund chief Strauss-Kahn with Italy's prime minister.

"If the accusations are confirmed, it was power in both cases that brought about the dehumanization of the other. They see women as an instrument for their pleasure. They are sconcezze interchangeable," Malpede said.

"They are not worried about how they can make women suffer," she added.

The philosopher Michela Marzano from the CNRS research institute in France agreed. "We above all about the abuse of power. Does you get into power you think you can do anything, you think you are above the law," she said.

Berlusconi is accused of sleeping with three 17-year-old Moroccan born Karima El-Mahroug, better known as "Ruby the Heart Stealer".

The 74-year-old also faces charges of abuse of power for allegedly getting her out of police custody as she would not reveal their liaison.

The trial is set to resume after a long pause in Milan on Tuesday.

Strauss-Kahn, 62, faces a first hearing in New York to which he is supposed to plead not guilty to charges of attacking a cleaning woman in a luxury hotel.

Both men have protested their innocence but their sex lives have been under intense public scrutiny for years.

Strauss-Kahn has admitted to an inappropriate relationship with a subordinate in the past and Berlusconi has been accused by his now former wife of trying to get young women into parliament purely based on their looks. Berlusconi, she said, was like "a dragon in whose tangles offer themselves."

But Giuliano Ferrara, a Berlusconi political strategist, said there was "no comparison" between the two cases.

In Berlusconi's case, Ferrara said, the allegations revolved around "a group of pretty girls who were delighted to have such a wonderful host."

Isabella Merzagora, a criminologist at Milan University also made the important distinction that in Berlusconi's case there was no suggestion of "coercion" in the sense of violence.

Strauss-Kahn faces between 15 and 74 years in prison if convicted.

Berlusconi's charges would carry a maximum sentence of three years for prostitution of a minor and 20 years in prison for abuse of power.

Marzano said she also detected a certain "machismo in the manner" in the Strauss-Kahn scandal in France, where the latter IMF boss was also seen as a favorite to replace Nicolas Sarkozy in a presidential election next year.

The French "are always ready to give lessons but they have to ask themselves about the image of women in France in the light of this affair," she said.

The situation was very different in Italy where the situation for women "is particularly degraded," she said. She added: "Men are proud of being machos."

In both France and Italy, Marzano said, the scandals have been accompanied by a type of "universal moral" for the men involved.

In the aftermath of the Strauss-Kahn scandal, opinion polls revealed that a majority of French people believed he had been set up.

In Italy, Berlusconi's loungiest protectors on an almost daily basis, calling them "Communist Taliban" and "a concert" of victory.

In a scathing editorial, Mario Travaglio, a journalist fiercely critical of Berlusconi, suggested that Strauss-Kahn should persuade "give up on France and move to Italy.

"The ministers of justice will put out a law decriminalizing rape, and your lawyer will say you were only the 'real asses' of the moral," he said.

AFP

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ROAD CLOSURES:

FROM 12:00 NOON TO FINISH (MAY 29, TO 30, 2011)
1. Ayala Avenue- from Makati Avenue up to Herrera Street. (Both Lanes)
2. Paseo de Roxas- from Sedena Street to Dela Rosa Street.(Both Lanes)

FROM 12:00 NOON TO 4:00 PM (MAY 30, 2011)
1. Malugay Street – From Pasong Tamo To Ayala Avenue
   -From Ayala Avenue to Gil Puyat Avenue (Both Lanes)
2. Ayala Avenue – From Gil Puyat to Metropolitan Street.
   -From Kamagong to Gil Puyat.
3. Rufino Street – From Valero Street to Dela Rosa Street

1. All passenger Buses (PUB) from EDSA, right to Sen. Gil Puyat toward destination.
2. All passenger Buses (PUB) coming from SLEX, Buendia, Pasay City take Gil Puyat Avenue left EDSA towards destination.

PUJ/LIGHT VEHICLES:
1. From J.P. Rizal, right turn Makati Avenue, right turn Paseo De Roxas, right turn Villar Street, Left turn E.P. Leviste, Left turn V.A. Rufino right turn Ayala Avenue towards destination.
2. From Washington St. right turn Gil Puyat, right turn Ayala Avenue right turn Salcedo, left turn Benavidez toward Esperanza, right turn Makati Avenue, right turn Arnaiz Ave. right turn Paseo De Roxas, left turn Dela Rosa, right turn Salcedo left turn Ayala Avenue towards destination.

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Editor Teddyboy S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa

SPORTS

Mailto:Rom | Website: www.inquirer.net/sports | E-mail: pi_sports@inquirer.com.ph
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Smart Gilas PH quint outclasses Malaysia

Filipinos gain quarterfinals with 2nd victory

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SMART Gilas' Marcus Douthit gets tangled up with Chris Tiu in last night's game against Malaysia's Westports. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

By Cedrill P. Tupas

SMART GILAS Pilipinas unleashed a ferocious second-half surge to crush the Westports Kuala Lumpur Dragons of Malaysia, 95-64, last night to seal its place in the quarterfinals of the Hino Asia Champions Cup at the PhilSports Arena.

Surprisingly struggling in the first two periods, the Smartmatic turned to JV Casio, Ato Ibanes and Chris Lutz, who keyed a third-quarter binge that boosted the Filipinos to their second straight win for the undefeated in Group A.

Unforgiving on the defensive end, the Smartmatic ran the fastbreak at every opportunity and were on to outscore the Malaysians, 39-24, in the last two quarters.

"If we play that way in the second half, we'll be in a good spot to win the tournament," said Chotabhi Hontiveros, who finished with 20 points in a dazzling solo effort going 5-of-11 in the 96-59 win over Saudi Arabia's Al-Ittihad Saturday.

The Smartmatic take a break today before leading the leap team Dubai tomorrow.

Trailing 39-40 at the break, the Smartmatic seized control after Lutz made two difficult layups that was followed by two triples by Casio. Another 7-0 spurt propelled Smart Gilas to a 68-44 lead after Casio's third straight triple.

While the Nationals put the clamps on Marcus Montana, they found difficulty dealing with the Dragons' other import, Christopher Igiri, who poured 15 for 15 points in the first half to keep his team in the game.

"We were surprised (at the way Malaysia played)," said Yeoman. "It's a good warming up to our tight games every weekend."

Al-Rayyan of Qatar gained a share of the lead in Group B with a comprehensive 90-67 victory over Al-Jahra of Syria earlier while Al-Ittihad of Saudi Arabia rebounded from a crushing defeat to Smart Gilas with an 85-75 thumping of Iraq's Al-Duhok.

The Qatanis unveiled a pair of ex-import in sixth- guard Chauncey Lewis, who shot 20 points, including 12 in the first half.

Al-Riyadi of Lebanon, scoring the legendary Bill D. Heath, routed 46-Shabbab of the United Arab Emirates, 109-90, Saturday night.

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SUN CELLULAR POSTPAID

Nationals rule PNG's last day

Mangrobang, Huelgas strike

By Jane Navarro

BALIKSIKAT CITY—Ace triathletes Nikko Bryan Huelgas and Kim Mangrobang, trailerbike Ronnie Moreno, and the bigglass wrestling duo shone on a day of record-breaking performances by the national athletes yesterday at the close of the Philippine National Games here.

Huelgas, who reached Olympic-level stamina in the swim-bike-run triathlon, was the first to cross the finish line in the men's division.

The national team coach and former No. 1 clocked 2:13:08, with Benjamin Sulla, another national pool aspirant, capping the bronze in 2:17:29.

Mangrobang, who competed with Huelgas in the 2nd duathlon leg in Clark last January with the women's crown, finishing in 2:31:29 to beat Hannah Ilad (2:40:42) and Michelle Bautista (2:28:20).

Beauty Moreno topped the BIX class in windsurfing, prevailing over Southeast Asian Games bronze medalist Geronne Sue at the Lagao Pandit Beach competition, while international sailors Ireland Gonda and Ray Jones wound up 1-2 in the 6-meter class.

Jessie Dacuan won sailing's Optimist A gold while the duo of Rightly Bellabaro and Nikki Filipinense triumphed in the 470er 2-6. Dyheem Alipio sealed the gold in Optimist B.

Women's Aquatics Faculty office at the Pascual Sports Complex as brothers Jerry and Jimmy duplicated Margarito Jr.'s gold-winning performance in wrestling by topping the men's 55-kg and 66-kg freestyle rounds.

Mangrobang, the most promising from among the Dumaguete Aquatic Jewels, was the 10-lap Cross-Biatnam gold medalist Imperato, Joseph, settled for the silver against her Ilocos Amaru in the 66-kg freestyle.

Huelgas posted split times of 22:39-1:06:15-44:24 in the 1.5-kilometer swim-40km bike-10km run Olympic event. The 20-year-old Mangrobang had split clockings of 22:39-1:20:30-31:17.

Out of 4,223 participants from all over the country, 864 athletes from the national training pool competed in 34 disciplines and won the majority of the 393 gold medals at stake.

Commissioner Jolly Gomez of the Philippine Sports Commission contended yesterday the government agency's annual role in engaging the allowances of national athletes who refused to participate in these games.

In table tennis, Rodel Ivosco and Sandrina Malakhov captured the individual men's and women's titles, Luzer Cruzcruz and Ting Ledesma handed the gold in the men's doubles and the tandem of Lyn Quevedo-Mina and Arlene Borja dominated the women's side.

Denver Perantie of Baguio (0.95 points) outdrilled his second gold to smoke after beating national pool executive Theovion Ivosco (0.87) anew in the (10-20 years old) long version freestyle. Perantie bested Ivosco in the same event on the other day.

Gold medalists in wushu (13-15) were Reginaldo Daniel Pamintuan (men's taijiquan) and Rachel Kate Chan (women's taijiquan) and Jonathan Cruz in freestyle boxing weapons.

The trio of Michelle Sulit, Jessica Arce and Imelda Aligan from Cebu City forged the doubles event gold in squash, Allen's offer Sentang Pearce Francisco, Kelly Ee, Pete Lennox and Jose Ricky Gonzales.

On rather bizarre, Regina Pete (ABU Masked Rider, 8-0) in the Bantol women's softball, the sibling pair of Jhomar and Joseph Arcilla combined for the gold from Geronimo Manzanero and Mikell Mendoncino in men's soft tennis, doubles, and women's individual champion Noelle Cabrera teamed up with Evelyn Pecaso for the duo's double crown.

The triple sterling moment from Simon A. [illegible] Mangrobang and Jay [illegible] Huelgas [illegible] Philippine Sports Commission chairman Jolly Gomez [illegible] Philippine National Games [illegible] Baliksikat City [illegible] Photo by Jonathan Cellona

HUGE Bryan Huelgas marshes the gold in a tearful finish before collapsing. PHOTO BY JONATHAN CELLONA

HIP! Mangrobang nails the triathlon gold with a hit to spare. PHOTO BY JONATHAN CELLONA

CARLOS

HEDDA

PH Am golf unfolds at Wack Wack East

By Manong R. Cuello

JOHM CARLOS and Chihiro Ikeda became a stellar men's and women's field-setting action today in the 2011 Philippine Amateur golf championship at the sub-par/par East Course of Wack Wack in Mandaluyong.

Considered the best in the current crop of young local pedestrians, Carlos and Ikeda are installed as solid picks to dominate today's start of the 36-hole qualifying round.

The top 12 men and 10 women players after two rounds of stroke play will qualify for the match play stage that begins Wednesday.

Chris Meredith and Zamir Jose Go also are the other notable names to together with Junor member champion Eugene Zaragosa III.

Expected to bound Ikeda are Doris Andres, Andrea Jason and seven again.

The National Golf Association of the Philippines is organizing the event co-chaired Ed Filipinos with Yasuko Hosoe and MIC Lund as chief sponsors and Cavat Depot, Callaway and Golfcare Golf as event backers.

The East course recently hosted the Philippine Open won by American Steve Stinson at the expense of Filipino Jay Bayron by one shot.

Carlos, who will start collegiate schooling in the United States in the next few months, hopes to outshoot himself after losing the Philippine Amateur Open to Korean Wing Aung-hyun at the Riviera two months ago.

Hernandez, NGAP secretary general Jun Bores said the amateur golf body is grateful that Wack Wack, through its president, Philip Elk Ayala, has agreed to host the tournament.

FEU jins pace Smart taekwondo league

By Mary Anthony Reyes

THE EASTERN University crew came up with lucky in the men's division and would be tested Saturday when company recently to grab the lead in both divisions in the Smart-Philippine Taekwondo Association League on the Ateneo campus in Loyola Heights.

Andie Rollo and Raymar Ilao, athletic duel two wins each as FEU beat University of the East (4-1) and University of Santo Tomas (4-1) for a perfect 3-0 slate in the men's division at the close of the PTA League's second round.

In the women's side, FEU bested on Kaela Jane Abaya, Hidaira Glindo and Mc Cecilia Tiaty to down San Sebastian College-Recoletos (4-1) and La Salle-Intramuros (5-0).

Competitions will resume Saturday June to give each of the clubs time to recoup their forces, according to league commissioner Monsour del Rosario.

Ateneo, headed by national coach Arlet Morales, showed the way in the junior and grade school kyorugi competitions at the Don Bosco Multipurpose gym.

The Blue-ette topped Ellisnan Preparatory School (5-2) and FEU (5-2) in the junior men's and Don Bosco Makati (3-2) in grade school.

EPS bounced back in grade school with two wins over School of St. Anthony (4-1) and Ateneo (3-2).

Host Don Bosco Makati also posted wins over Pio del Pilar High School (4-1) and Letran (3-2) to the other junior men's matches.

San Sebastian, also handled by Morales, rallied up victories in both men's and women's junior kyorugi edging Letran (3-2) before thrashing De La Salle Zobel-Dasmarinas (5-0).

La Salle-Zobel will take to turn in their first round of the grade school and junior boys competitions, while San Beda will wrap the men's and women's events.

ARANETA

Araneta off for crucial Fifa congress

PHILIPPINE FOOTBALL Federation president Mariano "Nonong" Araneta left for Zurich yesterday to attend the International Football Federation Congress and seek help for the grassroots development program of the sport in the country.

Araneta, who flew to the Swiss city together with secretary general Ramon Hizon, said he has also scheduled a trip to Germany to meet with officials of the German Football Association (DFB) and explore the possibility of a partnership to boost the PFF's search for more talents nationwide.

The Japan Football Association had not fare offered to help the PFF including an aid of $25,000, but Araneta said he's not expecting much with the disaster-hit country still rebuilding from the earthquake early this year.

Napoe has been helpful to us but we also don't want to bother them because they are also rebuilding their country," said Araneta.

Araneta said Saturday that he has yet to decide on the venue of Fifa president, who will be elected during the Congress.

GMANEWS.TV

Champions Cup a boost for PH basketball

INSIDE SPORTS

Alvarez
Vadhumaidez

THE SMART Gilas national team played some exciting basketball to whip South Korea in its opening game of the Fiba Asia Champions Cup at the Philsports Arena on Saturday.

I remember the old days when I was in that arena, it is obvious that the other teams—entertained by was optimized and scoring points—will be bored to hear.

Kobe, in an opening presser, showed who is the team put in a position to be successful with an awesome performance that even had Imam Glen coach Rudy Tomjanovich saying in praises.

Whatever position Steven Gilas ended up with, the players' main focus clearly stood out to be unrelenting respect that the Philippines has earned in the eyes of the international governing body, the Fiba.

Yet, consumed that glass in the eyes and the arrogant smile on the face of Fiba Asia president Mahfuz Sedik [sic] as he [illegible] of Qatar when he spoke of how happy he was to see the Philippines help reestablish our country's position in competitive tandem of the international basketball community.

...

There is no doubt that under the leadership of businessman-sportsman Manny Pangilinan as president of the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas, and with the support of his hand-picking duo president Ricky Vargas and the other officials, Philippine basketball is on the right track.

Under the leadership of Pangilinan, the Philippines was awarded the hosting rights of the 2013 Fiba Asia Championship, the biggest basketball tournament in Asia.

Pangilinan also brought in Chot Reyes as the head coach of the national team, a move that has paid dividends in the form of the Philippines' first win in the Fiba Asia Champions Cup in 14 years.

Reyes has also been instrumental in the formation of the Philippine Basketball League (PBL), a league that will be composed of the best players in the country.

The PBL is a league that will be composed of the best players in the country.

...

Pangilinan, in his public support, has expressed in clear terms his utmost confidence that he had entrusted on by breaking the Smart Gilas national pool concept even after some of its players were not the pro league, the PBA.

He realizes that despite the controversial way of selection by the Smart Gilas national pool, the form of the effort will only be realized if there is continuity in the program. The national team is in a position with the No. 1 and 2 teams holding twice-to-beat advantages.

Determined to avenge its 79-77 loss to Mandaluyong at the Smart Araneta Coliseum last February that forced a subsequent playoff, Tagaig exploded a 13-0 burst capped by guards Joshua Mario Mayo (6-0) anew in the (10-20 years old) long version freestyle. Perantie bested Ivosco in the same event on the other day.

Gold medalists in wushu (13-15) were Reginaldo Daniel Pamintuan (men's taijiquan) and Rachel Kate Chan (women's taijiquan) and Jonathan Cruz in freestyle boxing weapons.

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The triple sterling moment from Simon A. [illegible] Mangrobang and Jay [illegible] Huelgas [illegible] Philippine Sports Commission chairman Jolly Gomez [illegible] Philippine National Games [illegible] Baliksikat City [illegible] Photo by Jonathan Cellona

Filipino boxers in 2-1 start at China Open

GUIPANG, China—Veteran Orlando Tacoy-an and Mikhail Lopez won their opening bouts for the PLDT-Gilas team at the start of the second Chinese Open Sunday.

Tacoy-an, teaming-off a two-year hiatus from the Philippine Navy, showed no signs of rust in a 9-2 win over Qatari Abdulbasit Ibrahim lightweight clash.

Lopez, who had to shed off-in his pounds per two weeks before the tournament, rounded local pug Cong Mendoza in their 60-kg fight on a 13-7 verdict.

The two victories came after bantamweight Nicky Daley, 17, lowered to Beijing Olympics veteran Aerial Tecanor of Tajikistan, 13-2, in the first bout of the 19-country tournament.

Three fights are up Monday for the Filipinos with Tecanor taking on Chinese Jiang Jiangwei before Bobonoy tackling a Russian and Lopez battling a Thai.

Also in the team are the Salcedo brothers Rey and Victorio, who will get going on June 1, and the host Filipino Aurelio Cruz, who goes to the Tuesday action.

The PH team is sponsored by PLDT with Anvil providing the uniforms and office support.

Coke Interzonals on; Taguig cagers make it

TAGUIG topped the last bus to the Interzonal phase of the 2nd Coca-Cola Shoopla National Leagues Championships with a 90-73 demolition of defending champion Mandaluyong Sports Complex at the Mandaluyong Sports Complex.

Neither the entrance the home-town Mandaluyong crowd couldn't slow down Taguig in its march to the semifinals, where the South Zone 1st joined Quezon City (East), Mandaluyong (Central), Caloocan (North) and Antipolo (West) in the Interzonal affair.

The 3rd-placed team got eliminated in the Interzonal while the top Four teams clash in a crossover with the Nos. 1 and 2 teams holding twice-to-beat advantages.

Determined to avenge its 79-77 loss to Mandaluyong at the Smart Araneta Coliseum last February that forced a subsequent playoff, Tagaig exploded a 13-0 burst capped by guards Joshua Mario Mayo

...'s output to pull ahead 79-60 midway of the final quarter.

Taguig (90)
Tamayo 3-0 0-0 6, Ilagan 2-7 2-2 6, Santos 4-6 2-2 10, Pangilinan 4-11 0-0 8, Lontoc 1-3 0-0 2, Mayo 5-11 2-2 13, Bautista 1-3 0-0 2, Ramos 3-7 0-0 6, Pangilinan 3-7 0-0 7, Galvante 2-5 0-0 4, Mallari 3-5 0-0 7, Sanchez 4-10 0-0 10.

Mandaluyong (73)
Ilagan 2-7 2-2 6, Santos 4-6 2-2 10, Pangilinan 4-11 0-0 8, Lontoc 1-3 0-0 2, Mayo 5-11 2-2 13, Bautista 1-3 0-0 2, Ramos 3-7 0-0 6, Pangilinan 3-7 0-0 7, Galvante 2-5 0-0 4, Mallari 3-5 0-0 7, Sanchez 4-10 0-0 10.

Quarters: 15-18, 44-38, 64-61, 90-73.

SAMSUNG NTCC GOLF

Joson, Lee best club champions

TOP GUNS. Pasay vice (from left) Caddebang's Joey Hanson, AFP-GC's Maria Isabela Ayala Benedicto, Caraballo Lim, Caddebang's Erika Hutchins and Sanchez Palm Garden/Nomads Backyard (same order), Valley Golf's Adrian Mariano, Royal Northwoods' Richard Joson, Tagaytay Midlands' Lino Magsaysay and Tagaytay's Tommy Jones

FREDERICK JOSON of Royal Northwoods captured Valley Golf's Adrian Mariano, 3 and 2, to capture the men's title of the 2011 Samsung National Tournament of Club Champions at the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Gen. Trias, Cavite, over the weekend.

The second-seeded Joson kept the momentum of his impressive run as he won his Mallorca's second highlight, 5 and 4, and Cha Hong pre of Eagle Ridge, 7 and 5, to crown the annual tournament among champions of the country's leading golf clubs.

Anela Gozenfield of Caraballo Lim kept her winner as a down the wire battle for the ladies crown, topping two-seed Tina Lee-Lim of Caraballo, 1 up, after 19 holes on the Hills layout.

The win capped a stirring title run by the third-seeded Lee, who also edged No. 2 Ellen Rose-Ann Mallorca, 1 up, to gain a track at the title in the ninth staging of the event sponsored by Samsung and held in partnership with the Eagle Ridge GCC and its developers Sm. Lucio Beatty and Alvaro Lund, Inc. and Equinox Golf.

Top-seed Lino Magsaysay of Tagaytay Midlands foiled Tommy Jones's bid for a double by the Royal Northwoods host as he clinched set a 3 and 2 victory for the senior plum in the tournament hosted by Mayor Lito Atienza, Arnold Aquino, Mayor Glenn Chua, Rodino and Tibayan by Enguio, Gerson Chabuisier and Dominic International and Regal Properties.

Caddebang's Joey Hanson (nominated Vice-Pres Erica Velez/ Ranch Sunswick, 7 and 6, to assure the men's title as the special division for under-26 players, while Caddebang's Erika Hutchins held off 2007 ICC's Khaye Infante, 1 up, to clinch the ladies championship.

All winners received Samsung Galaxy Tabs, during the awards rites ground by Odette Ricardo, Samsung corporate marketing manager, and Eagle Ridge general manager Buddy Encarnacion. Two aces were recorded in the tourney, courtesy of AirPhil Express, were raffled off.

Meanwhile, the world bowling showcase, that resumes its support to local golf next week as it stages the Samsung Intercollegiate Golf Championships on June 8 to 10 at the North course of the Guadalupe golf complex and again.

The top players and rising stars from the tournament ranks and leading schools are expected to participate.

Waiting for Pacquiao's next battle

ONE GAME AT A TIME

SEC. SANCHEZ

THE PROBLEM with every fight we have to wait for it. It's like waiting for the next year in Christmas season. It doesn't come very often.

The nature of the fight game, especially at the high level. You gotta train, to then assign fighters are tagged only once every six months.

The exception is the fighter relentless of boxing fights a maximum of 12 rounds every time. Unlike the upcoming bout who can easily shake off the sting of a loss or an ex-number after three months.

We can't wait for the next Pacquiao encounter and we ask: What can we to do in the meantime?

Well, there will be a handful of Pacquiao teammates who will fill up the gap.

The most outstanding of that crop is Senador Dumaliw Jr. His unassuming nature, however, is being overshadowed by his management difficulties and troubles with the media.

Brian Francisco's road back to the winning track is another journey to watch while the 4A fighters of Cebu do put in the exciting ring exploits.

Then there's the unassuming sport of spectating on what will happen in the third part of the Pacquiao-Juan Manuel Marquez trilogy.

The third fight completes what seems to be boxing tradition. When two fighters really do not want to stop the ring, one fight is never just enough.

We've had Ali-Frazier, Morales-Barrera and Pacquiao-Morales to count just on outstanding few.

Let's take a few fine attempts at sizing up what should be a war between Marquez and Pacquiao.

Marquez has shown incredible resiliency when he fights Pacquiao, surviving three knockdowns in the first battle and one more in the second fight.

Being a counterpuncher, Marquez seems to have an answer for everything that Pacquiao can dish out. Boxing savvy Bert Mey Lanera has told me often that if there's one fighter that can absorb Pacquiao's power, it's Marquez.

But so much has changed since their last battle.

Pacquiao is now comfortable fighting at the higher weight categories. Being three classes he doesn't have to grapple with making the every weight and he can practically eat what he likes without any restrictions.

What's more, Pacquiao has grown smarter, wiser and greater in his last fights against roller opponents.

Marquez is going to face a different Pacquiao this May, one he's never faced before. The brawn Mexican could end up frustrated by his own desire to finally frustrate Pacquiao that he'll waste up his fight plan.

Keep in mind that Marquez once came to Manila with no other agenda than to forced Pacquiao send calls for a rematch. He did this in one morning fight promo (because of the need to beat the fights to the US TV audience) that had a slew of Filipino fighters battling an international unit.

Pacquiao was at the promotion and predicted Marquez will shut knockout inside of his.

In the time until best thing to do is the meantime is to review the Pacquiao-Marquez bouts that are available online and in video decays. Checking them out will relief our appetite cries more for that fight in November.

Bitoon outplays Viet FM

By Ray Lustre

FILIPINO GM Richard Bitoon sits back after making a move against Vietnamese FM Nguyen Huynh Minh Huy in third night's eighth round. RAY LUSTRE

TAGAYTAY—Filipino International Master Richard Bitoon found a key move and went on to beat Vietnamese Fide Master Nguyen Huynh Minh Huy in the eighth and penultimate round last night to keep his lead alive in the Asian Zone 3.2 Open Championships at the Tagaytay International Convention Center.

A lead-holder by his second-round victory, the three-time Olympian from Medellin, Cebu, left Nguyen with the grim prospect of either getting his queen trapped or giving up a rook for a knight and a pawn.

Nguyen, handling the white pieces, desperately sought both but eventually succumbed after 28 moves of a Queen's Gambit Declined.

The win gave Bitoon 5.5 points going into today's final round of the twin event organized by the Bicolandia Chess Federation of the Philippines and hosted by the Tagaytay City government through Mayor Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino.

Filipino pairmates Grandmaster Darwin Laylo (5.5 points) were still leading with Indonesian GM Susanto Megaranto (5.0) at promotion.

Also locked in tight fights were GM Mark Paragua (5.0) against top-seeded Singaporean GM Zhang Zhong (5.0), Singaporean IM Goh Wei Ming (5.0) against home Wadis model 16 champion Feb Movies Ian Emmanuel Gerero (4.5). GM John Paul Gomez (4.0) against Vietnamese GM Duc Thien Hoa, GM Rogelio Antonio Jr. against Vietnamese GM Le Tong Dat, Filipino IM Oliver Barbosa (4.0) against Vietnamese IM Nguyen Hanh Minh Huy; and GM Eugene Torre against Vietnamese IM Pham Viet Hai (4.0).

Laylo, Paragua, Torre and Antonio are members of the Philippine team that placed second to world power China in the Guangzhou Asian Games last year.

Third team was led by GM Wesley So, who skipped the event to prepare for the World Cup rematch in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia, later this year.

In lineup second board, however, to provide support to his bandi Laylo, Paragua and Barbosa.

In Saturday's seventh round, Laylo split the point with Singaporean IM Goh Wei Ming in 49 in board.

Barbosa bounced back into contention with 4.5 points after following the defeat of WFM Chandine Quimbo-Cazzabo to Vietnamese WIM Hoang Thi Minh and the draw between compatriots Julius Donesa and Jon Arabit-Pesada.

Canadian got rested at 3.5 points while Torres and Pesada, with 4.0 points in the company of WIM Beverly Mendoza, who hosted Singaporean WFM Chua Bee Yi.

They were too far behind to challenge for the four Women's World Championship slot at stake, with Vietnamese WIM Nguyen Thi Thanh An already having 5.5 points.

3 of 5 shoot groups backing Mikee

By Jaemie W. Payo

KOHEBO. Humbled by strong support.

ANOTHER SHOOTERS' group has thrown its support behind the bid of sports patron Mikee Romero to head the Philippine National Shooting Association (PNSA).

Romero, the owner of Richest Center pardon talents who recently gained world in the 25-man PNSA board, drew the backing of the association's elite group weeks after getting endorsements from the police, as well as long-standing target Ben Lingaman.

Lingaman (PNSA president Art Macapagal) stepped down two weeks ago.

"He has the level of the sport, so I hope we in the board can sit down and sit till the headwaters issues," said the wife Mayor Cek Tomlin Catubig, a member of the national pistol team in the 1970s to 1985.

Romero is a member of the trap and moving target group and regularly competes in the National Open.

Just recently, the trap and moving target group led by Junior Chua inherited the PNSA board that is land approved the election of Romero over Macapagal.

Only board members from the association's five groups—moving target, rifle, pistol, non-Olympic events and practical shooting—are eligible to head the PNSA.

"I think there's no more problems for Mr. Romero to be elected president," said Lingaman. "We need a national who can unite new shots into the group."

Many more national squad-like champion Nathaniel "Ito" Padilla of the pistol group is also backing Romero's bid.

"I would love to serve as head of a sports association that is dynamic in any level," said Romero, 51. "I just cooperate with others. I will lead the shooting association. I'm humbled by the strong support of the shooters."

JONATHAN Tiu (seen) shows his trophy after topping the Southern Series-2011 National Drag Racing Championship Quick 8 series.

Daredevil Tiu rules Southern Series again for ninth crown

HEDONISM CHAMPION Jonathan Tiu of JCT-Blondie Racing clinched his third consecutive Southern Series-2011 National Drag Racing Championship title with a bang, going all out to nail the last races at the Batangas Dragway and Drag Strip in Rosario, Batangas.

The victory was the ninth in Tiu's career as he posted 46 points in the series sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines.

John Dominico Bautista second overall in the Southern Series with 28 points, with JCT-Blondie Racing's Anthony Co third with 15.

Tiu failed to smash the record but was

'Integrity' race draws 5,000 runners

TAGUIG CITY—More than 5,000 runners yesterday swooped to Bonifacio Global City to add their voice to the fight against corruption.

The "I Run For Integrity Towards A New Philippines" event was organized by the Makati Business Club in support of the Integrity Initiative project which was started in the last quarter of 2010.

Both the previous series and the government were represented in the run that was divided into the 3k, 5k, 10k, and 15k divisions.

Among the leading personalities present were Integrity Initiative convenor and chairman Benny Antiporda, Integrity Initiative vice chair Rufino Hilario Jr. BCCP vice president and general manager Michel Mirda, Chamber of Automobile Manufacturers in the Philippines president Elizabeth Lee, Convergys country Manager Maribi Zamora, SM Director Magtanggol Gonzales, Internet Personality extraordinaire Eric Nicholas Cunningham and Ayala Land Incorporated Carlo Lucas.

Laguna five finds way to Liga finals

SANTA ROSE, Laguna—Most Laguna Golden Lions topped the Batangas Tri-City Tigers, 75-64, Friday night to advance to the championship game of the MC Liga Filipina Conference V Laguna leg at the San Luis Sports Complex.

The Lions reached the finals on a stronger quotient after forging a three-way tie with the Tigers and the Mindoro Intrepids at 2-1. But they barely made the requisite winning margin, needing Bryan Bautista's baseline drive to beat the 11-point cushion and barely beat out the Tigers via the quotient (+66 as to +59.62). The Mindoro took the No. 3 spot with a 1-2 quotient.

It was a sweet loss for the Tigers, who were within a championship berth until Ariel Guinoo fouled the ball-save that set Laguna up for the final play.

Puno Cup tees off Thursday at Wack Wack

THE FIRST Chief Justice Puno Golf Cup, a fund-raiser for the Supreme Chief Justice Reynato S. Puno's judicial reform program, tees off on June 2 at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club in Mandaluyong City.

Presented by San Miguel Corp. and Bank of Commerce, the 18-hole tournament is being organized by friends, colleagues and associates of the former Chief Justice who retired last 17 project to print one million trees across the country.

Tee off time is 7 a.m.

Backing the tournament as major sponsors are ICTSI, Solar Entertainment, Basic sons Alkasa, Metro Pacific Tollways Corp. and Wack Wack.

Golf tournament inquiries call lawyer Ed Serapio at 09175123186, lawyer Aidan Navarro (09278888908) or Daniel Chiu (09178371988).

SPORTS

Nadal, Sharapova roll on

Murray twists ankle in win, Djokovic advances

MARIA Sharapova, who sees no reason to limit herself as a "one on ice" when playing on clay, shows off grace in returning to Taiwanese Chan Yung-Jan during their third round match at Roland Garros. —AP

PARIS—As the French Open rolls along, both Rafael Nadal and Maria Sharapova seem to be getting better and stronger.

After cruising victories in the third round, they are two of only five players remaining with more than one Grand Slam title. Not with that experience comes pressure, and both have been feeling it for years.

"I can't control 25, but seems like I am playing for 100 years here on the court," Nadal said with a laugh after easily eliminating Croatian wild card Antonia Ivkic 6-1, 6-3, 6-0 Saturday. "In my opinion, tennis is a very demanding sport mentally and physically."

Sharapova, who faced little trouble in beating Chan Yung-Jan of Taiwan, 6-2, 6-3, agreed with that assessment.

"We've done this for almost all our lives," said Sharapova, who turned professional when she was 15, "so we feel like we've seen a lot of hammer stressed and we just keep going."

Novak Djokovic also advanced to the fourth round, completing a straight-sets match against Juan Martin del Potro, while Andy Murray won despite twisting an ankle and said he would decide later on his prospects of continuing in the tournament.

On Sunday, Djokovic is to square off for pitfalls against on the line, while 2009 French Open champion Roger Federer plays Denis Cup teammate Stanislas Wawrinka.

Nadal came into the French Open after losing to Djokovic in two clay-court finals, but he still is the favorite for many observers.

"The pressure doesn't to the first round, when the top-ranked Spaniard was pushed to five sets by John Isner. He also had a slight struggle in the second round.

"I did a few things much better than the previous days. Degree for four," said Nadal, who is 41 1 at the clay-court major.

Murray had his smartest moment so far in the third round of his 6-2, 6-3, 6-2 win over Michael Berrer.

The three-time Grand Slam runner-up twisted his right ankle while going for a ball early in the second set. He stated the rest of the tournament is now in jeopardy.

"I've managed to play almost two sets with it but I've just got to wait and see and do all the right things," Murray said. —AP

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Barcelona flogs United in Champions League final

PEDRALES, England—Barcelona and Lionel Messi put their players among hot-hills all-time greats beyond all doubt as the Argentina forward savored one goal and created another in a masterstriking 3-1 Champions League final win over Manchester United on Saturday.

Barcelona justified its status as overwhelming favorite by dominating possession with trademark one-touch passing. But with Wayne Rooney being expulsed Pedro Rodriguez's first-half opener, the Spanish champions could not force the crucial breakthrough until Messi, the talismanic Argentina striker, outpaced a 94th minute solo strike from the edge of the area.

There seemed to be no space as Messi was mocked by defender Rafael da Silva, but the two-time world player of the year spotted a gap between the central defenders and hit a shot down the middle, beating goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar for pass.

Man of the match Messi followed his 52nd goal of a remarkable season with a killer and put that eventually led to David Villa inserting possession on the edge of the area, from where the Spanish striker rocked a shot into the top corner.

BARCELONA players toss Josep Guardiola in the air in celebration. —AP

A third Champions League title is on seasons and funds overall means that only Liverpool, AC Milan and Bayern Real Madrid have won more European Cups than Barcelona's rivals.

"I feel perfectly," Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola said. "You always want to win, but the the way we have won is what I am most proud of. This is the way we want to play football.

"Messi is the best player I have seen and probably the best I will ever see."

Messi was typically taciturn in his ref elevation.

"I'm very happy about the match," Messi said. "We were the better team. We deserved to win."

No team has dominated Europe as completely as the Messi-Pep Guardiola duo did in Barcelona's finals 2008, 2009, and even that spell was punctuated by human seasons. —AP

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- Sharpening CSR: Revisiting CSR Strategies for Long-term Impact
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BUSINESS

PBCom for sale at ₱4.3-B floor price

May 31 deadline for proposals from investors

By Doris C. Dumlao

MEDIUM-SIZED lender Philippine Bank of Communications is up for scrubbing to prospective new investors this month at a floor price of about ₱4.3 billion, banking sources told the INQUIRER.

The Ongpauco group, cohort to PBCom's controlling stakeholders, recently sent a new round of invitations to several banks that might be interested to expand through a merger and acquisition, the sources said.

Interested parties were given until May 31 to submit a proposal to the key shareholders of PBCom who were willing to sell their shares at a minimum price of ₱120 a share, the sources said. That was the same level at which the shares were put up for sale in an earlier bidding.

Based on data from the Philippine Stock Exchange, PBCom has about 52.61 million common shares and another 1.25 million preferred shares in which the floor price of ₱120 a share would apply for this bidding. The entire 3bn PBCom is valued at about ₱4.3 billion, including the

INCOME B1

IN THIS ISSUE

■ **Biz Buzz:** Blame comes home to PSE /B2

■ **Banking industry** posts double-digit profit growth /B17

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

May 27, 2011

43.370

STOCK MARKET

May 27, 2011

43.95

Tight trading range seen

LOCAL STOCKS are seen holding within a tight range this week but with some upside likely to be provided by selected issues.

The main share of Philippine Stock Exchange Index (and stands closed at 5,215 points (PSEI) -5,214.13 as week's sentiment was dampened by volatile external factors.

With a seeming lack of catalysts, All

YEAR' B2

Blame comes home to PSE

MKU has silently taken the brunt of investors' wrath following the seemingly futile index adjustment introducing four-consecutive Friday finance-led port operator International Container Terminal Services Inc. (I) was included in the index but a day-1 but spreading to industry sessions. The Philippine Stock Exchange itself may have some explaining to do.

ICTSI has recently written the PSE after finding out that the flagging announcement of its inclusion in the closely watched MSCI global standard indices had somehow to do with some data discrepancy in the PSE's new trading system. Source familiar with matters at the PSE alleged that MSCI had issued certain data culled from the PSE's trading system that turned out to be unreliable, thus prompting the recall of its decision to add ICTSI the very next day after the initiation was announced.

ICTSI, the source said, was not totally upset with the opportunity loss arising from the data glitches and would resist the issue addressed by the PSE. (Doris G. Dumlao)

Bird safety or people safety?

SOME aircraft owners and pilots have begun to raise concerns about the presence of a giant-sized (sic) anniversary-slaughter flight path leading to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

According to the pilots, the fatal accuracy in the Las Piñas-Parañaque-Coastal Lagoon ski exhibit is Globetrotter million from the aviation base of Nasa runways 13-31 (international) and 6-24 (domestic).

Why are they alarmed? Well, it's simple because the birds have been guilty to blame for the high incidence of "bird strikes"—a.k.a. an avian aggression, a bird hit, or a BASH (Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard)—happens when a bird is touched to or crashes into an aircraft's engine.

At the very least, it causes expensive damage to pricey aircraft engines. At worst, it poses a threat to the safety of aircraft, their passengers, and people on the ground. In fact, for 2010, there were a total of 23 bird strike incidents in Nasa, a sharp jump from the eight that were recorded in 2009.

These pilots are now asking the government to take a closer look at this hazard and take action to ensure the safety of flight operations and passengers. (Aurora L. Lucas)

Pagcor and PEP

OUT in the large infrastructure requirements of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.-led Entertainment City that is expected rise along Manila Bay west on the street is that the government may include this project as part of Pnoy's public-private partnership (PPP) framework.

Putting the Entertainment City in the mega-PPP pipeline may suffer considered by investment managers, given that the multibillion-dollar development is intended to be mostly tourism-oriented, with only 10 percent of the requirements actually related to gaming. This was borne out of the consideration that the project could blaze air traffic and peripheral road infrastructure requirements.

"There were preliminary discussion if it's going to be benefited to include it in PPP but ultimately the decision that was reached was to better coordinate [with other agencies] but not really make it part of PPP," Pagcor vice president Pamela Fernando explained to Biz Buzz. (Doris G. Dumlao)

CLSA research on top. Still.

CLSA Philippines won the most institutional favorite All-Asia for-search Team survey for the third consecutive year, edging out the local units of UBS and Deutsche Bank.

The stock brokerage firm's head of research, Alfred Ely, and his team consisting of Lee Simmonds, Hazel Tabuñda and Clarence Bagtas maintained the team's top position against heavy odds due to the departure of two senior analysts last year. Eddie Bongcaras who left for Deutsche Bank Securities, and Rafly Mandapat who migrated to Canada). (Aurora L. Lucas)

Fresh trouble in Dinalupi

FOUR indigenous peoples' communities occupying the Dinalupi mine and reservation in Compostela Valley—the Manobos, Mandaya, Mansaguanyan and Dibabawon—have signed separate treaty of entry and agreed to jointly develop the Tribal Mining Areas (Tolmas) under their stewardship.

Lucí Tolaby, representative of the Ely Archaeol Alke Mining Co. as final chosen "strategic partner," Jake Silaing is the "successor to be turned" of publicly listed Apex Mining Co.

On the surface, it seems that with the entry declaration last Friday, decades of conflict in Dinalupi would finally end.

The gold-rich mountain has been haphazardly mined by small-scale miners since the 1980s. Small-scale miners, many of them armed, have fought each other and with the IPs as well as the large companies expected by the government.

Jake Mining president Eric B. Tagle said it was possible that members of the mine operating agreement maintained off by Philippine Mining Corp. (PMC) within the Dinalupi area could raise customary problems with the four tribes who have chosen his company to explore and develop their 950 hectare TSMA.

PMC, Tagle said, should have consulted first with the tribes instead of subdividing it, since the blessing of the IPs was necessary for any mining activity to prosper.

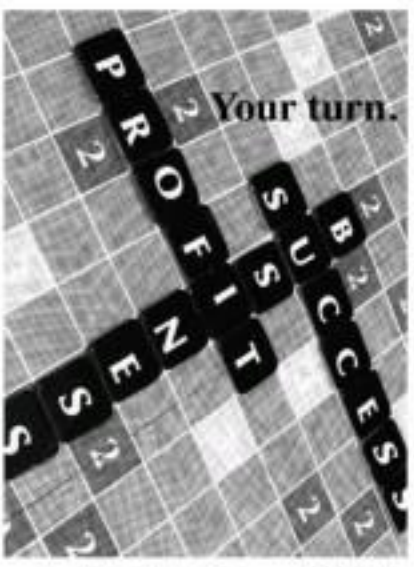
Could this mean that the subdividing and bidding conducted in Dinalupi would be reversed? Tim could only answer Tesda's bidding underneath the surface. (Jun Ochoa)

Ayala reams good governance

THE AYALA group was the biggest winner at the recent Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD) 9th annual dinner last week.

For the first time in its history, the ICD gave out "Platinum" awards, recognizing listed companies that received "Gold" trophies for three consecutive years. Gold awards are handed out to listed companies that score 90 percent or higher on the ICD Corporate Governance scorecard.

Out of the seven Platinum awardees, five were Ayala-led companies, namely: Ayala Corp., Ayala



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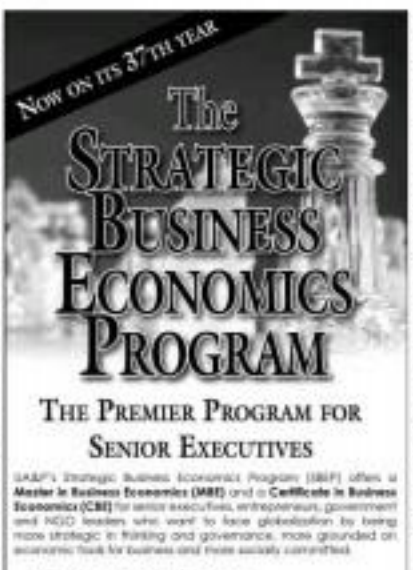

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Tight . . .

From page B1

Capital Securities analyst Prince Antony Brung said the Dow Jones Index would likely stay within its current trading range of 4,250 and 4,340 this week. Coming from a two-day winning streak last week, he said the PSEi might test this week on a positive note but real fluctuation compared to a week ago.

"The main index may top 4,300 once again but will not find enough reason to post a new year-to-date high," he said.

Brung urged investors to be on the lookout for selective trading opportunities. For instance, he noted that stocks like Megaworld and ALI had been battered recently and were now below their fair value based on earnings capabilities.

He said mining stocks Philex and Lepanto would likely continue to stay in the spotlight. Philex is next to move strongly ahead of the June 3 ex-date of its property dividend while Lepanto is even offering potential trading opportunities given its value play.

Investors were also urged to watch out for BSP, and Ayala Corp. reports on earnings levels of P45 and P400, respectively.

"Foreign investors will persist, leading to more rebound movement for the overall market. Meanwhile, local developments that investors will keep an eye on include inflation levels and the economic growth that the country posted during the first quarter of this year," Brung said. Doris G. Dumlao

PBCom for sale at P4.3-B …

From page B1

spearheaded an open bid for the shareholders' tender to minority shareholders.

Macquarie had attempted to auction PBCom in the last five years to three withdrawn shareholders' economic rival Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. is bailing out a sinking stake in a view to resume the years after the nine-year insurer negotiated the bank's P13.5-billion rehabilitation in 2004. PDIC has contributed 17.6 billion to the bank's rehabilitation program.

In its deal was closed since the last auction that began in 2000, management one insisted given a new mandate to focus on strengthening the bank's operations. Recently, however, is new attempt to bid out the bank was initiated.

Several banks confirmed receipt of such invitation to make a pitch for PBCom, a stake banking player mostly serving the Filipino-Chinese community.

PBCom ranked 22nd biggest among the country's 38 commercial banks with assets of P43.8 billion as of end-2010, based on latest data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. It had 29.4 billion in net loans and receivables and a deposit base of P27.4 billion.

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HONDA

Ayo executives and partners of Federal Land-ORIX led by its president, Jose Mari Bonoan (seventh from left) during the topping-off ceremony for the first tower of The Grand Midori Makati.

A Grand Lifestyle unlike any other at The Grand Midori Makati

The Lauderdale model unit in the project's on-site showroom.

Federal Land-ORIX recently celebrated the topping-off ceremony of the first tower of The Grand Midori Makati. After careful planning and meticulous construction, the development will soon house the most discerning homebuyers at the heart of the country's financial capital, with expected turnover of units in the first tower slated for end of 2012.

A seamless fusion of convenience, sophistication and safety in one impressive address, guests, business partners and future unit owners warm to awe as they caught sight of The Grand Midori Makati's state-of-the-art architecture. From its panoramic windows, a picture-perfect sight of the city's lively horizon also greets the visitors.

Before the topping-off ceremony, guests celebrated the unveiling of the three-bedroom model unit at the project's on-site showroom.

To appreciate the fine taste of discerning homebuyers, fully-furnished units will be made available. Composed of a modern kitchen with built-in LPG system cabinets, range hood and granite countertop, the same understated elegance is extended towards the rest of the unit. Bathtubs, dual lavatory, air conditioning and a multi-point water heater are added modest features amply designed for a truly upscale living experience.

From its spacious and well-appointed units to impressive modern areas designed by world renowned Japanese firm Tange Associates, this Zen-inspired residential community houses a myriad of the most ambitious lifestyle facilities. A dressy 30m lap pool, a multi-purpose hall, a fully-equipped day care center, a game room, a spacious outdoor children's playground and a 2-in garden on every level are just a few of its overwhelming amenities. The fitness gym, which is fully equipped by Life Fitness offers a total workout experience.

Genuinely fashioned in mente and impress, "The Grand Midori Makati's prestigious is a Federal Land trademark that consistently transforms old visions to its buildings grand status. Federal Land-ORIX President Jose Mari Bonoan specified, "The Grand Midori Makati has exceptionally been fashioned for the select few who relish the Japanese virtues of simplicity, elegance, and serenity."

Given The Grand Midori Makati's envious and well-planned building lay out, its location is just an ideal. Strategically located at Legaspi Village, this upscale residential condominium has the country's famed Makati Medical Center as its neighbor. The Greenbelt Shopping Complex, Makati Shangri-la Hotel and the Philippine Stock Exchange are mere minutes away, across the rest of the Makati business precinct.

The Grand Midori Makati is also complemented by topmost security. Sophisticated safety measures such as Personalized Access Card Key (PACK) assures entry to one's unit face only, round the clock roving guards and dual closed circuit TV cameras are installed in all floors and the common areas for added security.

The Grand Midori Makati is the maiden undertaking of a joint venture between three trusted names in their respective industries – Federal Land Inc., ORIX Corporation of Japan and Metrobank. Internationally-acclaimed Filipino architectural firm RPV Consultants and Associates spearheads the project's overall design.

Interested in a property overview today? Visit its on-site showroom located along Legaspi St. Legaspi Village, Makati. To know more about the project, call 310-5155 or visit www.thegrandmidorimakati.com.ph.

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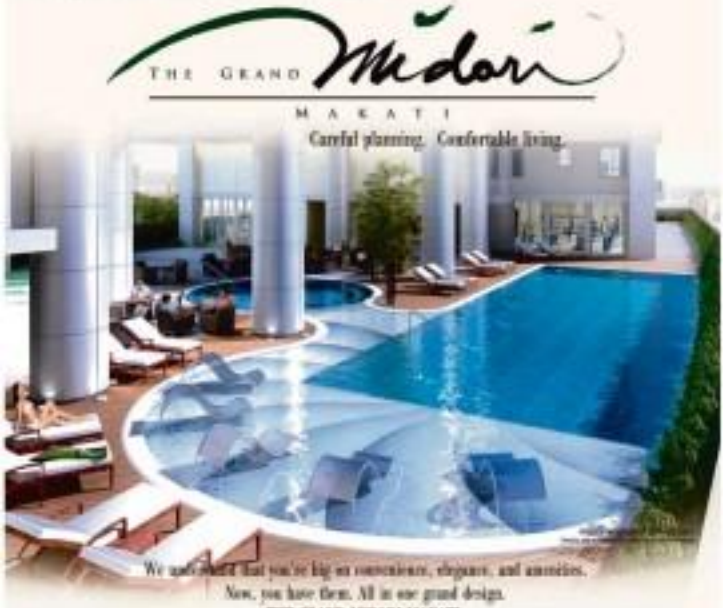

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Peso seen rising to 42.30 to $1 in Q3

Barclays expects smaller budget deficit of P275B

By Bernelle Domingo

THE PESO is expected to appreciate to 42.30 against the dollar in the next three months amid confidence that monetary authorities would not intervene in the foreign exchange market, according to Barclays Capital.

The investment bank said in a new research note that the forecast was made "given supportive balance-of-payments (BOP) dynamics and also the central bank's willingness to allow currency appreciation as long as unspurred price pressures."

Earlier this month, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported that the BOP—the difference between inflows and outflows of foreign currencies—stood at a surplus of $1.95 billion in April, up 7 percent from the $1.81 billion in the same month last year.

This brought the surplus in the first four months of the year to $4.38 billion—doubling the $2.29 billion registered in the same period a year ago.

The BSP said the surplus would further boost the country's foreign exchange reserves, which had been hitting record levels in recent months.

Barclays Capital said the Philippine budget deficit was likely to settle at P275 billion or even lower this year instead of the government's forecast of P300 billion.

The government reported a budget surplus P46.3 billion in April, which brought the January-April fiscal position to a surplus of P6.1 billion.

"Overall, we sense is that the budget deficit will likely surprise on the downside, and our forecast stands at P275 billion, which is just under 3 percent of gross domestic product," the bank said.

"We believe the risks to our forecast are biased to the downside," it added. "We note that the government is also studying measures to boost revenues, such as indexing excise taxes and tobacco to inflation as well as simplification of the tax structure."

Given its outlook on the peso, Barclays Capital reiterated its recommendation to buy the global peso note (GPN) that matures in 2016.

"For investors who are economics on the peso, the GPN position can be held for eight six-lumps (adjusted to lower potential total returns," the bank said.

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PH promoted as global software and IT gateway of Japan

By Amy R. Borja

PHILIPPINE SOFTWARE companies are aiming to double the country's $500-million annual software exports, following a successful trade mission earlier this month.

In a statement, the Philippine Software Industry Association (PSIA) said the organization hoped to pursue an estimated $1.0 million worth of prospective customers, which resulted from the country's participation in the annual Software Development Expo (Sodec) held in Tokyo.

Sodec is Japan's largest exhibition featuring a variety of products for development, operation and maintenance of software. A great number of managers from information systems and software development companies in Japan attended the event.

The Philippine delegation was composed of representatives of eight software companies under PSIA, namely, Advanced Info Systems, Alliance Software, Aztec (Philippines), Filipino Computing, I-Sys (Philippines), Pantheon Technologies, Tadahisa Global Solutions, and Ubiquitous Technologies Philippines.

Prior to the Sodec-Day double-exhibitions, nearly 100 Japanese executives expressed interest in doing business with Philippine software companies during an exclusive information technology seminar co-organized by PSIA, the Philippine Embassy in Tokyo and the Philippine Trade and Investments Center (PTIC) - Tokyo.

More departments are expected in this expo, mainly those for networking and business consulting.

The After-Sodec, PSIA head for the Japan market special interest group, noted that the group continued to uphold its mission to "promote the Philippine software industry in Japan through its 2011 theme: Philippines as Global Gateway of Software and IT Services."

"PSIA is eager to provide reliable and quality software and information technology services to its Japanese partners."

PSALM aims to pay $2.66B in debts this year

Exchange readies tough rules for Maharlika Board listing

Promoting good governance in PH

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange (PSE) has set various rules for listed firms that want to join the local bourse's proposed "Maharlika Board."

Officials said making it harder for listed firms to join the new board, which was scheduled to go online by September this year, would send the message that the country was serious in its efforts to promote good governance. This is aimed at attracting new investments.

The Maharlika Board will be patterned after Brazil's Novo Mercado, or a trading board for listed firms that lead in the practice of good corporate governance.

"In terms of trying to replicate the Novo Mercado, the Philippines is the only country that's trying to have rules that are as stringent as the Novo Mercado," PSE chair Hans Sicat said.

Among the Maharlika Board will be voluntary for listed firms. The PSE hopes companies that join the Maharlika Board will become credible to transparency and giving minority shareholders a say in board decisions.

Companies that wish to join the board will offer itself to have at least 20 percent, higher than the earlier proposed 10 percent, of their shares traded on the local market.

A company's board must also be composed of at least three independent directors, or 40 percent of the total number of members, whichever is higher. This will give minority shareholders the power to "veto" board decisions if they wish to.

"We ask for everyone. Among the board will be voluntary, but if the companies fall below the minimum standards, they will automatically be removed from the board," Sicat said.

Sicat noted that three more will propose to end next will be the discussion with other stakeholders.

In a separate interview, Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD) president Ricci Dolhen said the Maharlika Board requirements had to be strict if the project was to gain any credibility.

He said this would be vital step in improving the country's image in order to attract new investments.

The Corporate Governance Watch 2010 report of the Asian Corporate Governance Association and CLSA Asia-Pacific Markets placed the Philippines last among 11 Asian countries in terms of adherence to corporate governance standards.

This poor showing, along with other issues such as political risk and political risks, has been dampening investor interest in making bets in the Philippines.

"This is one of the reasons why foreigners, a consensus view, is getting the issues since foreign investors in the Philippines, which is a democracy where people speak English well," Dolhen said.

"Our goal here is really protect investors. The only real solution is to provide additional jobs. The only way to create jobs that is to have more investments," he said.

Grieving back to society

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Bernal III

WHAT IS the whole point in the ongoing debate between PLDT/Smart and Globe, the most dominant telecommunications companies in the country?

The two are hogging the public's attention before the National Telecommunications Commission, or the NTC, which is conducting public hearings on the PLDT acquisition of its "competitor," Digitel.com.

In the hearings, as you only be expected of them, the two "biggies" are grieving about their own interest. I am not sure that Sun's interest, either of them, is also the public interest. The NTC, after all, is conducting public hearings on the PLDT acquisition of its "competitor," Digitel.com.

Globe is asking the NTC to take away from PLDT and Digitel combined a good part of the most important element in their kind of business: the radio frequency bands.

You see, all governments in the world allocate these bands, measured by the megahertz, to the companies that have proven that they can use them well (i.e., money-making businesses) by telecommunications companies, such as those assigned by the NTC: to PLDT-Smart, Globe, and Digitel-Sun.

In the particular case before the NTC, the two giants are talking about the so-called 3G bands, which enable people to use—on top of mobile telephone services—all those broadband services for the Internet, video calls and mobile television, to share, chatting of the latter.

Now, Globe is asking the NTC to take back 22 MHz that were allocated earlier to PLDT-Digitel, arguing that if NTC approves the acquisition, the 3G bands of PLDT-Digitel will be more than four times bigger than the Globe 3G bands.

In other words, many more of us can join through the PLDT-Digitel broadband. Digitel now those through them of Globe, and—that is of course according to Globe—the quality of Internet is enough to kill competition. Meaning, of course, Globe will not make money.

Well, methinks that if such is the case—and Globe chokes in such an internet market—competition that is actually does—some other groups will surely rush in to take its place. There is money to be made, right?

On the other hand, PLDT/Smart is using another approach in the argument on the 3G band allocation. The group is saying that the NTC must look into the telecom companies' usage of the other particular, Smart has some 11.5 MHz for about 45 million subscribers, while Globe has 90 MHz for only 26 million subscribers. As for the Digitel-Sun, the company has only 42.5 MHz for 34 million subscribers.

In other words, Smart has the most number of subscribers, per MHz of band allocation, while Globe has the least, and in the PLDT-Smart group arguments before the NTC, they use those figures to show "efficiency."

In effect, if NTC agrees with Globe, taking back some 22 MHz of band allocation from PLDT-Digitel, in turn giving the same to Globe, the government is committing inefficiency.

Which of the two sides has the more valid points on this 3G issue, of course, is up to the NTC.

But to the guys down here in my homespot, the real question is this: Is any of what they are saying, really, given back to society what they take—its fee? Globe claims that the PLDT-Digitel combine would kill competition, implying that without Globe, 35,013 Digitel would still be public alive, increasing price or sell. Bad for the public.

June, and the NTC will not stand by, say maybe overage, is that it?

By the way, a long time before this issue was strong, with its "unlimited" mobile phone package, and before Smart became the leading mobile company in the country, there were only Globe, Piltel and Extelcom. Globe actually deserved the business in those early days, as called "talking" competition eventually, its things stood now, some other groups came up to fight Globe.

See when the industry big shots argue about the 3G bands, another question arises: How did they get all those frequencies, in the first place?

In other countries, the governments laid out the limited spectrum of radio frequencies for business use by telecom companies, running billions and billions of dollars for the public auctions.

Here, our government gives them away—but then the privilege for some "considerations" that only heaven knows what. And the government cannot even improve taxes on cell phone usage.

Statement Printing Office, or SPO, in reply to our piece (*Breakfast*, May 9, 2011) on the corrupt practices in the SPO, said that its prices were not double or triple of those of commercial printers or printers, as we claimed.

Only last December, the Department of Budget Affairs presented through the SPO Quarterly Achievement Report, where in a printing contract to Cubcover (CBC) we offered 30.8 cents ea. 5's, at P202 per booklet.

In the SPO price list, the same item is listed at only P100 per booklet. Okay, the SPO printing did not go up by two or three times. It went up by more and a half times.

Also, the city government of Los Baños recently held a public bidding for the supply of accountable forms. In the past, the city was forced to order such forms through the SPO, but since SPO did not have a working printing plant, it merely subcontracted the Los Baños order to some favored printing companies.

In the bidding, anyway, Los Baños used the SPO printing as "ceiling" for the bidders. What do you know, Strauss, the winning bid was a lot price of only P900,000. And what did the SPO use as charge for the same lot? Let's see, only P1.8 million. I thought it was precisely what I said earlier—it was "double."

And that case arose with the top price the order of Philpost, in which one of our bosses at the SPO actually used to serve the country as a "public servant," donning pay from our purses.

Here, too, Philpost exposed the price for its procurement of "serviceable form as 5.1" with security features and all) at P35 per booklet. What was the price of the SPO for the same item? It was a bargain price of P200 per booklet. That is more than triple.

And I can go on and on, but the thing is, despite the regime (Don E) administration's campaign against with its campaign against corruption, we are hesitant to say by our leader Benigno Simeon (a.k.a. BS), things remain the same as the SPO as they were back in the days of the coin-adjusted tribute of Ghandi Ca.

Insular life profit up 23 percent in 2010

PHILIPPINE RESIDENCE grant Insular Life posted a 23-percent increase in its consolidated net profit last year to P5.6 billion on higher revenues from investment and investment income.

Insular Life said total revenue grew by 21 percent to P10.2 billion in 2010, or $200 per of operations.

The bulk of the revenue came from net investment income and investment income, which amounted to P8.4 billion and P4.97 billion, respectively. This was reported by Insular Life chair and CEO Vivencio Ayllon to quite healthier pension during the company's annual meeting held recently in Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa.

Total policyholder benefits and operating expenses amounted to P12.1 billion. Total life insurance reserves also increased P200 billion. Consolidated assets was 34 percent to P71 billion.

"The steady performance of the domestic economy, the global market recovery, and the fact that a highly motivated employee and sales force made it possible for the company to post its most robust bottom line. Even in its 110-year history," Darwin C. Dumlao.

Globe Valero Corporate Office now ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001 certified

Globe Valero Corporate Office in Globe Valero Corporate Office in Makati is now ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001 certified following the effective implementation of a system that monitors environmental and occupational health and safety practices. The organization's management system now meets the stringent criteria set by the Bureau Veritas Certification (BVC), a leading international certification body, and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

ISO 14001 is an environmental management system standard which helps organizations establish and determine the environmental impacts of their operations. OHSAS 18001 is an occupational health and safety standard which guarantees a focused and effective delivery of policies focused on safety and risk management practices, both performance and global standards for sustainable environmental and occupational health and safety practices.

"The certification is an affirmation that Globe has set in place a robust system to guarantee that we practice management of occupational hazards and guarantee we are fair to our with the least impact to the environment. This is demonstrated through our programs on Emergency Preparedness and Response, Substance Driving, Hazardous Waste Management, and Energy Conservation," said Edith Santiago, Head for Logistics and Administration based in Globe.

For those having a similar management system means it has thoroughly assessed its operations' potential threats to the environment and workplace and taking all necessary steps to control and minimize these risks. Globe has also established safe work and safe work procedures, and conducts regular training and awareness campaigns on safe work practices, and a clear culture of safety thrives in the workplace among other mandatory criteria.

Santiago stated, "This third party certification has given Globe the competitive edge which gives us confidence in our clients that we are the physical manifest of the employees and we are committed to the environment and safety."

The certification was issued by Sun Magnificent, an independent third party registrar which conducted a rigorous audit process to ensure that the organization has met all the requirements of the standards. The audit process included site inspections, employee interviews, and document reviews.

The Globe Valero Corporate Office boasts Globe Business, the company's newest flagship for its enterprise and corporate SME clients.

"UR VAN, UR BUSINESS" PROGRAM -- BUILDING FUTURES, TRANSFORMING LIVES

It was a celebration like no other.

Crowds gathered at the Activity Center of Market! Market! in Taguig as Universal Motors Corp. marked the 10th anniversary of its successful "Ur Van, Ur Business" (UVUB) program with a two-day affair dubbed "Our Van, Our Business, Our Success" Urvanation 5th Year Celebration.

As UMC EVP, Elizabeth H. Lee formally opened the event, she also acknowledged the contribution of her mother Helen to the success of the program as she was a key factor who conceptualized the "Ur Van, Ur Business" program. She continues to be an inspiration and a strong pillar to the UVUB program.

"We came from humble beginnings, not knowing nor expecting the unexpected blessings that would come as a result of the Ur Van, Ur Business program when it first started in 2006," she revealed, grateful to the fact that today, the program has grown so much, touching and changing lives in the process. Ever today, the UVUB continues to enrich so many lives, shared Ms. Lee as she thanked the many media friends and co-crusaders, the supportive Nissan dealers, the loyal Urvanistas, and her indefatigable Marketing team for their overwhelming support for the pioneering UVUB program and the multi-purpose van.

A GENEROUS HEART

Since its inception five years ago, the UVUB program has made a lot of headway into the hearts and minds of the riding public since it provides business opportunities coupled with its unique corporate social responsibility program using the Nissan Urvan.

The desire to uplift, inspire, and change the lives of less privileged Filipinos has continued to motivate the UVUB program. Its long-standing partnership with the non-profit organization Center for Community & Transformation has also helped steer the program towards a nobler path. And to date, over 5,000 families have benefited with over 7,000 jobs created.

It was a very heartwarming moment indeed, as 20 young men who are scholars of the UVUB program, summoned the courage to perform a touching number to show their gratitude. These underprivileged children, driven to learn, help their parents and achieve more in life, were the first few given the opportunity to be scholars at the Magdalena Campus, a learning institute in the heart of Pagsanjan Laguna which was put up by CCT together with the UVUB program. It is a TESDA accredited vocational school that teaches various technical skills to include electrical, building construction, carpentry, plumbing, masonry, among others. The learning experience also integrates Christian spiritual formation, character development, and skills sharpening into one holistic curriculum.

LIFE-CHANGING CRUSADE

The pioneering 'Ur Van, Ur Business' program has grown from a seed of hope to making a lasting difference in other people's lives.

In celebration of "Ur Van, Ur Business" program's 5th successful year, UMC showed an unstoppable drive to continue with its noble mission of continuously changing the lives of Filipinos, one van, one business at a time.

Indeed, true giving has no ending. The possibilities are simply endless, and the UVUB program is a true testament to the fact that with hope, faith and the sincere desire to make a positive impact on others, with God's grace, anything and everything is possible.

Nissan Urvan. Swaktong ka-pamilya. Swaktong ka-negosyo.

Ms. Elizabeth H. Lee with guest performer, Mr. Pure Energy Gary Valenciano. Gary V. and UMC shares common passion for advocates that aims to uplift and sustain the lives of less fortunate Filipinos.

The Full UVUB Circle – UMC, the Nissan dealer network, friends from media, loyal Urvan owners, CCT officers and beneficiaries.

Ms. Elizabeth H. Lee with the micro-entrepreneurs who succeed under UVUB program.

UMC-COO Ms. Elizabeth H. Lee with the 20 scholars from Magdalena Campus

Libreng Sakay and URVANegosyo Negosem

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BUSINESS

Filinvest to put up budget hotel chain

Forms venture with Singapore group

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE FILINVEST group has teamed up with a Singaporean firm to roll out starting this year a nationwide chain of budget hotels, adding to its array of tourism-oriented projects for different market segments.

During the company's stockholders' meeting on Friday, Filinvest Development Corp. president Josephine Gotianun Yap said a joint-venture company had been set up with the Archipelago group of Singapore, an affiliate of Aeon International, to introduce to the local market the budget hotel brand "Tune." The chain is expected to offer hotel rooms for about P500 a night.

"We have two in the planning process and then there's a couple of other locations were looking at," Yap told reporters after the stockholders' meeting.

Yap said FDC was jumping off from the successful launch last year of Crimson Hotel and Spa in Cebu, which caters to the upscale market. Two more FDC hotels are under construction—another Crimson hotel in Alabang and the Grand Cenia Residences in Cebu.

The new budget hotel chain would be managed by the joint venture firm Filinvest Archipelago Hospitality Inc. Each of such budget hotels would have about 150 to 200 rooms, Yap said, noting that the "Tune" brand was quite popular in Indonesia.

"We're targeting middle-level businessmen plus it will be located in very good locations. It's [low] budget, clean and efficient," she said, adding that the upcoming hotel chain would also be suitable for families. "The locations can also be for leisure travel. We're expecting people who want a nice bed, clean sheets and the price is just right."

She said the launch of "Tune" would complete FDC's hotel offering for different market segments, which also include Crimson for the high-end market and Quest Hotel, a three-star hotel in Ilocos, Cebu.

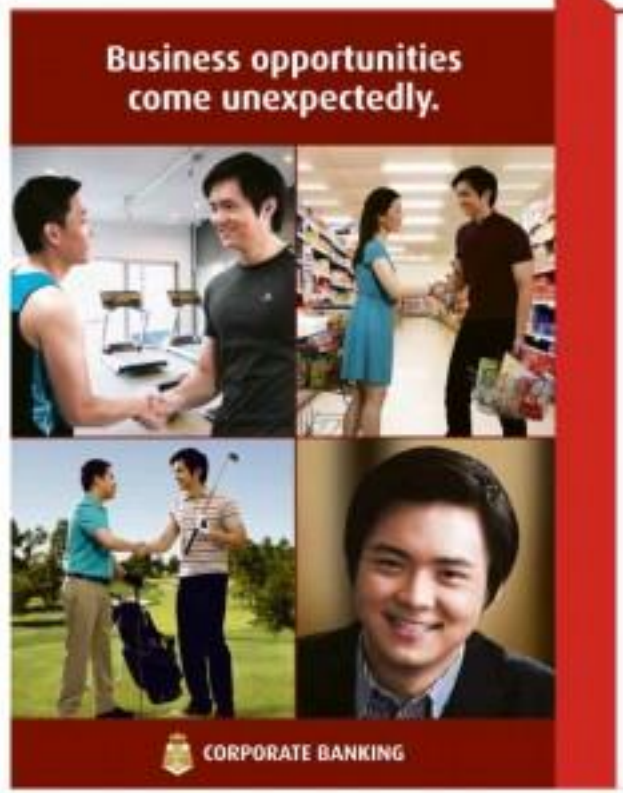
FDC, the holding arm of the Gotianun group, is a conglomerate with interests in property, banking and other industries. It has also mapped out a program to build four liquefied natural gas (LNG)-fueled power plants across the country with an installed capacity of up to 1,000 megawatts over the next five years.

In 2010, FDC grew its net profit by 59 percent to P4.94 billion from a year ago on the back of a 27-percent rise in revenues to P11.43 billion. For the first quarter of this year, net income hit P1.3 billion, up 26.3 percent year on year.

"We are pleased with the healthy growth trajectory and strong performance of our businesses, which we have strategically positioned to take advantage of the strong economic fundamentals of the country," Yap said.

"Our sustained efforts to strengthen our financial position across all subsidiaries have prepared us to take on more challenges in the future. The proven resilience of our core business and our new investments in high-growth areas will establish the new platform for FDC's future growth," she said.

The power business is seen growing to be the third leg of FDC's business in the next five years after the property and banking units.



San Miguel, Aboitiz seek gov't nod for power deals

Supply contracts with regional distributors

By Amy R. Borre

POWER GIANTS San Miguel Corp. and Aboitiz Power Corp. have sought regulatory approvals for their respective power supply contracts, stressing that these agreements would help ensure the stability of electricity supply in Luzon and Mindanao.

In separate filings before the Energy Regulatory Commission, San Miguel, through San Miguel Energy Corp. (SMEC), said it needed the approval for its energy supply contract with Davao Electric Inc. (DEI), through its subsidiary Thermo Mercantile. Likewise, Aboitiz is pursuing applications for two separate supply contracts with Davao Oriental Electric Cooperative Inc. (Davao Oriental Electric) and Sorsogon Electric Cooperative (Sorsogon).

"There is a necessity for the immediate and provisional approval of the instant applications in order that there will be no undue disruption in the power supply and continuance of Davao Electric shall, to the utmost possible time, benefit from the lower generation cost it can be pleased from the prospect of SMEC," the San Miguel unit said in the application.

SMEC claimed that customers of Davao Electric would greatly benefit from the energy supply contract as the power generation they could give the "lowest rates" ranging from P1.9049 a kilowatt-hour during early morning off-peak hours to a high of P6.4983 a kWh.

Under the energy supply contract, SMEC shall impose the agreed basic energy rate in four sets of transaction (TOU) hourly rates. The SMEC TOU rates shall remain constant over the entire duration of the contract," SMEC's application added.

MeanwhileDEI, SMEC similarly claimed that its energy supply contracts with Davao and Davao would help address the current power crisis in Mindanao.

"Despite the available power generating capacities, the Mindanao grid is currently experiencing existing frequencies as a portion of these available capacities are allocated to meet the reserve requirements of the Mindanao interconnection system, pursuant to the standards set under the Philippine Grid Code," DEI said in both applications.

The Aboitiz subsidiary's contract with Davao, which serves 11 municipalities in Davao Oriental, would be valid for three years. Under that agreement, TMI will supply Davao's entire up to 3 MW every month.

The one-year energy supply contract with Davao will require TMI to supply up to 10 MW a month to customers in Davao del Norte and Compostela Valley. Davao City and Island Garden City of Samal, and the municipalities of Maragusan, Montevista, Nabunturan, Compostela, New Bataan, Mawab, Maragusan, Mawab, Pantukan, Panabo, Laak, Talaingod, Asuncion, Kapalong, Tiwi-Caraga and San Isidro.

Buzz ...

From page B2

Land, Globe Telecom, Manila Pilots Co. and Cebu Property Ventures Development Corp. also attended were Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) and Lopez Holdings Corp.

Other think-tank subforums recognized at the conference were Cebu Holdings and Ingenieur Marc Electronics, which made it into the Gold category, and Bank of the Philippine Islands, which won in the Silver category. Read Monday also

Get Analysis share and a preview of the from the morning before it closes out. Set DO NOT MISSED to 0917.552.30 (Globe)

BDO Chief Executive Officer and president Nestor V. Tan at the bank's annual stockholders' meeting last week at the Manila Peninsula Hotel in Makati City. The company's biggest lender expects net profit this year to hit a record P 18.5 billion.

Ongpin mining firm eyes new projects

By Doris C. Dumlao

ATOKAS WEDGE Co. Inc., the mining arm of the group of former trade minister Roberto V. Ongpin, plans to explore about P1 billion in copper and gold projects as global mining stocks are hot in the Philippines but also in Laos and Cambodia.

Joining the company's annual stockholders' meeting last week, company president Ernesto Lecaros said the mining firm was now evaluating nickel, gold and copper opportunities to make the most out of P1 billion in planned gold-up capital.

"We're here in the Philippines. There are opportunities overseas," he told reporters.

Mining opportunities in Laos and Cambodia emerged as an offshoot of affiliate Philweb Corp.'s burgeoning gaming operations abroad. Lecaros said. "Because of the Philweb gaming operations, the relationships was developed and so, why not take a look at it."

Lecaros said Ayala-led Philippines now spending on overseas explorations and, if lucky, would be able to identify commercially viable mining sites in three countries in seven years.

"We don't have mining rights yet. You don't pay for mining rights until you're sure of the property's potential," he said. "The conservative approach is really to get to be a good project."

Laos and Cambodia were seen as good mining sites because of their proximity to China, a big market for mineral exports, Lecaros said.

Nickel-ore Philippines also hopes to acquire a good domestic mining project within the year.

The company is also studying acquisitions to comply with the 10-percent minimum public float required by the Philippine Stock Exchange to remain listed on its bourse.

"We will address that," he said. About 4.2 percent of ATC's stocks are held by the public.

Tel.: 890-GOLF(4653)

Maybank

Union Bank sees profit growth

Challenging environment expected this year

By Doris C. Dumlao

UNIONBED Union Bank of the Philippines expects to grow its net profit this year by a double-digit level in but a new record despite a more challenging environment arising from higher interest rates and commodities.

In an interview after Union Bank's annual stockholders' meeting last Friday, bank president Victor Siddayao told reporters that net profit growth would not likely be as hefty as last year's, which was an extraordinary period for the banking industry. "But we still see double-digit growth this year, maybe 10-15 percent. I will be happy with that," Siddayao said.

The supported that Union Bank could post a net profit of between P5.65 billion and P6.15 billion, topping last year's record high level.

In 2010, Union Bank boosted its net profit by 24 percent to P5.05 billion as higher net interest earnings were complemented by trading gains, as were aided by a broad, risk-free interest rate environment.

This year's performance, Siddayao said, would all depend on what would happen to the interest habit of the year given uncertainties arising from the sluggish US economy, a lingering debt crisis in Europe and concerns over rising inflation in China.

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R - Type Solid
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Deck Type Perforated
R - Type Perforated
Plastic Flooring Perforated
Drum Pallet

PLDT ALPHA Enterprise and Pacnet Partner to Deliver Enhanced Ethernet Service in the Philippines

MANILA – Leading Philippine telecommunications provider PLDT through PLDT ALPHA Enterprise – its business group handling relationships with top tier Enterprise clients – and Pacnet, Asia's leading wholesale pan-Asian telecommunications service provider today announced a partnership to deliver an enhanced high-speed Ethernet network service to businesses in the Philippines.

PLDT is the only Philippine telecommunications provider to be awarded the coveted Metro Ethernet Forum (MEF) 9 and MEF 14 certifications. Through the partnership with Pacnet, customers in the Philippines will be able to enjoy a new Global Ethernet Interconnect Private Leased Line (GEPL) service that simplifies the network requirements of enterprises by providing high-speed, seamless international Ethernet connectivity.

"With the growing demand for Ethernet connectivity in the Philippines, PLDT and Pacnet both share a bullish outlook on the Ethernet services market. This partnership aims to leverage on each of our strengths to capture market. Pacnet maintains one of the most extensive range of Ethernet PoPs worldwide, at the MEF-certified Tier-1 global domestic fiber optic network and provides global class local Ethernet connectivity in Manila, this partnership will benefit enterprise customers here," said Joey Bercasio, SP and Head of PLDT Alpha Enterprise and SMART Enterprise Sales & Marketing.

Pacnet's international Ethernet network ordered on an enterprise class of the art submarine cable network. Pacnet is built on key data centers in Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam and the United States.

Manhattan Garden City named a sustainable project

Manhattan Garden City was identified as one of Megaworld Corporation's sustainable township projects during the 1st Sustainable Building Technology Conference held on November 11-12 at the SMX Convention Center.

According to Megaworld's Sustainability consultant, Edmond Maceda, township developments like Manhattan Garden City are the perfect models for sustainable land use planning. Compact townships promote "densification over sprawl" and transportation connectivity. Residents are encouraged to walk from the home/hotel/retail or office.

Manhattan Garden City, located at the Araneta Center, offers an abundance of public transport options from buses, taxis to train lines. It is the only point in the metro where the LRT2 and MRT3 train lines converge, thus making any point of the metro from the north, south, east and west accessible within minutes.

Short-hop urban enclave will encourage residents to live, work, play and shop within the community, thus encouraged to consume less electricity and water, buy a lesser quantity of items and discard less trash and spend far less time in automobiles. With the train lines as an option for transport, they will significantly contribute to lessening greenhouse gas emissions, according to Maceda.

Manhattan Garden City is a joint venture project between the Araneta Group and Megaworld, the country's #1 developer of residential condominiums for the mid- and upper-income market.

"The green aspect of Manhattan Garden City also makes it a sustainable project. 60% of the total land area is dedicated to greenness. Sky gardens at the upper four floors of every tower of our new phase, Manhattan Heights, will give residents a refreshing option to unwind high up the metro's confines," Megaworld Central Properties Inc. President Anthony Charlemagne Yu declared.

More than 20 different amenities – such as a lap pool and kiddie pool, skylights and jogging paths – like amidst tropical landscaping at the fourth floor podium level of Manhattan Garden City. The podium level also hosts a 720-meter walkway through which residents can reach the other phases as well as the train stations via Gateway Mall for LRT2 and Farmers Plaza for the MRT line.

"Township living in a special place like Manhattan Garden City points the way to a sustainable future. You can live, work, shop and play here everyday of your life with the entire family," Yu concluded.

To unpack the benefits of living at Manhattan Garden City, please call 916-3333 or visit the showroom at the 3rd level of Gateway Mall.

Residents will enjoy the livework-play-shop lifestyle on offer at Manhattan Garden City.

Manhattan Garden City is one of the township projects of Megaworld Corporation that provide sustainability.

Manhattan Garden City is the only transit-oriented development that is directly linked to LRT2 and MRT3 train lines.

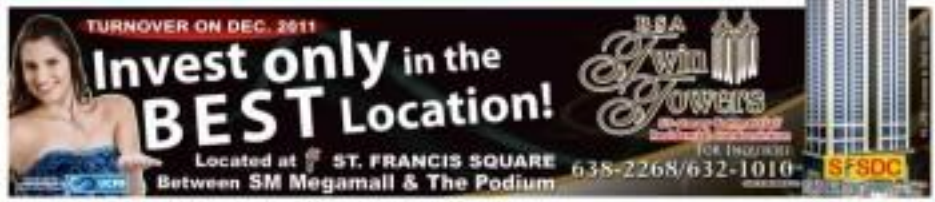
Where Life is at its Greenest

MANHATTAN HEIGHTS

at Manhattan Garden City
Araneta Center

For more details, call 810-3333 or 913-0234 local

BUSINESS



PH companies seen to hire more workers in Q3

With more jobs filled, economy may do well this year

By Michelle V. Ramos

MANDALUYONG CITY, May 30, 2011 (PDI) — Philippine companies are expected to hire more workers in the third quarter as the business environment remains favorable, a survey conducted by the Manila-based ng Pilipinas showed.

Results of the latest survey conducted from April to May showed that companies set to hire additional workers in the third quarter outnumbered those that said they had no plans to increase their workforce.

Over a thousand employers nationwide participated in the survey, the BSP said.

The employment outlook index—computed as the difference between the percentage of firms that have hiring plans and the percentage of those that will not hire or cause workforce—stood at +14.5 percent.

According to the BSP, the survey results indicate that the economy may grow at a respectable pace this year, noting that additional employment increases overall income.

The most number of firms that signaled their intention to hire more workers were in the construction and services sectors, the BSP said.

Although the latest employment outlook index remained in the positive territory, it was still lower than the +23 percent reported in the previous survey.

Central bank officials said the decline in the index was due to the unfavorable developments abroad over the past few months. These developments, particularly the unrest in the Middle East and North Africa, as well as the disasters in Japan, are expected to dampen performance of businesses in the Philippines and the domestic economy registered.

The continuing unrest in some oil-producing countries have pushed up global oil prices. Higher oil prices tend to temper demand for non-essential goods.

Also, the disasters in Japan could curb its demand for Philippine-made goods. Japan is one of the biggest export markets for Philippine products.

"The effects of these events are expected to be temporary," BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said.

Given this expectation, firms that are optimistic about expansion and employment still outnumber those that are pessimistic, Guinigundo said.

Also, the survey showed that respondents in general felt that credit had become more accessible than the previous three months.

As such, they expect their spill be available financial support for their expansion plans.

The credit access index—computed as the difference between the percentage of respondents that cited easier credit access and those that said otherwise—stood at +18.4 percent.

The rise up from the +17.8 percent recorded in the previous survey.

Respondents are also expecting challenges to emerge in the near term.

In particular, the economic and factor inflation and higher interest rates on loans, the survey showed.

Going projections, the companies expect faster inflation as global oil prices rise, the BSP said.

Some inflation will increase their cost of production.

Enterprises likewise expect interest rates on bank loans to rise as a result of the BSP move to increase its key policy rates, which influence commercial interest rates.

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Power Situation Outlook
for Monday, 30 May 2011

	Low	Contingency	Minimum
Luzon Grid (MW)	8,811	1,721	1,299
Visayas Grid (MW)	1,249	1,383	1,179
Mindanao Grid (MW)	1,582	320	81

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Center for Health Development, Central Visayas
Osmeña Blvd., Cebu City

BIDS and AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO RE-BID

for DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH – CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT, CENTRAL VISAYAS (DOH-CHD/CV), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	PROCUREMENT OF SECURITY SERVICES WITH 24 ELEMENT PROFESSIONAL FOR 4 PERIOD OF THREE (3) MONTHS PREMIERING
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	PHP 1,100,000.00
Source of Funds	DOH-CHD/CV
Contract Duration	3 years

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 5 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly in Section II Instructions to Bidders. The Agency Owned Establishment as also Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

	Activities	Schedule
1	Issuance of Bid Documents	May 30 - June 20, 2011 Internal Control Unit (ICU) DOH-CHD/CV, Osmeña Blvd., Cebu City
2	Pre-Bid Conference	June 7, 2011 at 1:00 pm Tuguc Conference Room DOH-CHD/CV, Osmeña Blvd., Cebu City
3	Opening of Bids	June 21, 2011 at 2:00 pm Tuguc Conference Room DOH-CHD/CV, Osmeña Blvd., Cebu City

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Php 2,000.00 to the DOH-CHD/CV Cashier. The method of payment will be in cash. The Bidding Documents shall be issued personally to the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The Department of Health – CHD, Central Visayas reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Department of Health – CHD Central Visayas
Mrs. Elizabeth R. Nilosan – BAC Secretariat
Chairperson
Osmeña Blvd., Cebu City
Telephone No.: (032) 414-0400
nilgaerron@yahoo.com (032) 253-0398
www.doh7.doh.gov.ph

(Sgd.) ENGR. MANUEL T. GERVACIO, JR.
BAC Chairman

(PBN - May 30, 2011)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Center for Health Development, Central Visayas
Osmeña Blvd., Cebu City

BIDS and AWARDS COMMITTEE

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"Lord, do unto me, as I would unto thee;
If I were the God of Moses and you were Anding Rose"

—Alejandro R. Roces

The Nation mourns the loss of National Artist for Literature

Alejandro "Anding" R. Roces

Patriot, cultural visionary, educator, journalist, volunteer, servant in government in directory of liberation, PhI, UNESCO Chairman, ATOM Chairman, GMF Trustee

July 13, 1924 – May 23, 2011

He is reunited with his wife, Irene Yenko Viola Roces and is survived by his daughter Elizabeth Y. Rueca-Pedroza, son-in-law Ramon Alurtie Salazar-Pedroza, grandchildren Bianca Abalka, Lorenzo Xavier and Giannina Marietta Rueca-Pedroza; siblings Jose (Pepin), Francisco (Pipo), Marcos (Quibal) and Alfredo (Ding); in-laws Rizaldia Adriano Roces, Jesus Pineda Rueca, Ophelia Villones Viola, Pearl Castillo Viola, Rose Hoover Viola, David (Bubli) Yenko and Marylene Villoria Viola, relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his siblings Rafael (Liling) †, Jesus (Turing) †, Inocencio (Nene) †, Joaquin (Theng) † and Luis (Eldin) † and his in-laws, Raymund Yenko Viola †, Rafael Yenko Viola † and Michael Yenko Viola †.

State Honors will be held on:
Friday, June 3, 2011, at 9:00 a.m.,
at the Nicanor Abelardo Theater,
Cultural Center of the Philippines, CCP Complex, Pasay City

Interment will follow after the State Honors
at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City

Colleagues, Relatives and Friends are all invited

"I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in Me will live even though he dies, and whoever believes in Me will never die." – John 11:25-26

ADELINA BLANDO MARTINEZ

of Unisaggan, Pangasinan, Quezon City & Pasig City
Born Nov. 13, 1934
peacefully joined her Creator on Sunday, May 29, 2011

She will be most missed by her loved ones husband, Judge Luis D. Martinez (Ret.); her children Bobby & Marlee, Rosemanie, Luis Jr. & Freddalyne, Vic Luisa, Jose and Rizelle; her grandchildren Carlo, Patricia, Jessa, Phillip, Adelo, Mhee & Franky, relatives, friends and all who came to know & love her.

She remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Homes, Antonio Ave., Q.C., Reminiscence 2 Chapel.

Cremation will be on Thursday, June 2, 2011, after the 10:00 a.m. holy mass.

DEATH NOTICE

Jesus "Arsie" C. Magro
(Apr. 25, 1948 – May 28, 2011)

Peacefully joined our Creator on the age of 62

His remains lie in state in Dolorosa Subd., Sta. Teresita, Cebu Laguna.

Interment will be on Tuesday, May 31, 2011 in Cebu Cemetery after the 2:00 pm holy mass in St. John the Baptist Parish, Cebu, Laguna.

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BUSINESS

As Sun sets on PLDT's field, Globe hits hard

Other telcos air concern over takeover

By Paolo G. Montecillo

GLOBE TELECOM Inc. has gone on the offensive, laying new charges against its rival industry leader Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., in an effort to prevent what appears to be inevitable—PLDT's takeover of Digitel Telecommunications Philippines, operator of the Sun Cellular brand.

Although the National Telecommunications Commission has yet to approve the deal that will allow PLDT to assume control of Sun Cellular, PLDT has already announced that the takeover will be completed by the end of next month.

Globe, a rival of the Ayala Group, accused PLDT of having anti-competitive policies that would only get worse once the Digitel takeover takes place.

In a statement last week, Globe also called on the government to ensure that the deal would not lead to an industry setup once that could kill competition and lead to higher rates for consumers.

Globe, which controls about a third of the local telecommunications market, then blasted PLDT for high landline call rates to 31 provinces in the country—a charge PLDT vehemently denies.

The Ayala telco said some consumers had to pay long-distance rates for calls made within the same area because PLDT refused to act on requests to interconnect with the former's landline network.

"Customers cannot enjoy local calls when connecting to a PLDT landline within the locality, and vice versa, because PLDT has yet to act on its request for interconnection in 31 locations," Globe said.

The interconnection between two networks operating in the same area is required under Republic Act No. 7925, also known as the New Telecoms Policy law.

According to Globe, it has been requesting PLDT for interconnection since 2006 to provide Local landline calls over P1 each, but it offered interconnection, with made between two subscribers of different networks can cost twice as much.

Answering the allegations, PLDT said it did not accept billions of pesos on its wireless network only to give its rival Globe a free ride. It added that Globe was merely trying to "leverage" the Digitel deal to get free commercial from PLDT.

PLDT likewise said Globe's other motive for raising issues regarding the Digitel deal was to "kill" the Sun brand.

Despite being the smallest player in the telecommunications market, Sun Cellular has been able to leave both PLDT and Globe to bring down their call and text service rates or risk losing market share.

"Globe has been the hardest hit by Sun Cellular's popular unlimited services and low-cost text subscriptions to Sun Cellular," PLDT regulatory affairs head Nap C. Reymundo said. "Sun Cellular has also captured Globe in terms of postpaid subscribers. Globe knows that with the PLDT investment, Digitel will now have the much needed financial resources to sustain and continue the Sun Cellular unlimited text brand. That is what Globe dreads."

Aside from Globe, consumer groups and other smaller telcos have expressed their concern over the PLDT-Digitel deal. When the deal is done, PLDT will increase its market share to about 70 percent from 55 percent.

In a position paper filed with the NTC, Bayan Telecommunications Philippines Inc. urged the regulator "to preserve the public interest, to impose such conditions so as to prevent the commission of anti-competitive behavior."

"With such dominance of the entire telecommunications services market, the PLDT entities will be in a position to discriminate with prices for services," BTTI said.

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BUSINESS

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Banking industry posts double-digit profit growth

Income grew by 17% to P21.66B in Jan-March

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE CONSOLIDATED income of universal and commercial banks in the country continued to register double-digit growth, supporting projections by regulators that industry profit would rise this year on demand for loan products and services increases.

Data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed that the combined net income of universal and commercial banks reached P21.66 billion in the first three months of the year, up by 17 percent from P18.55 billion in the same period last year.

The BSP data also showed that the growth in the banking industry's profitability was driven by both its banking and nonbanking activities, which include payment, custodianship and underwriting services.

There are 38 universal and commercial banks in the country. Among the biggest are Banco de Oro, Metrobank and Bank of the Philippine Islands.

Regulators said the banks' first-quarter income performance indicated the probability that their full-year performance would exceed last year's P83.36 billion, a record high.

Last year's net income marked a 28-percent jump from P65.72 billion in 2009.

Deputy BSP Deputy Governor Nestor Espenilla Jr. said that the banking industry's income might exceed that of last year's but this year's profit growth might not be as fast as the 30 percent recorded last year.

He said the business environment this year, although still favorable for business, faced certain challenges that were not seen last year.

These include lower inflation and higher interest rates, which could hamper growth in demand for loans.

The BSP believes that banks, led by universal and commercial lenders, would continue to post rise in lending to consumers and businesses this year, supporting efforts to further boost economic growth.

The BSP earlier reported that the outstanding loans of universal and commercial banks in the country amounted to P5.27 trillion as of end-March, up by 14.1 percent from P2.06 trillion in the same period a year ago.

The profitability and liquidity of the banking sector ensures its ability to support higher consumption by individuals and increased investments by enterprises, it said.

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Pagcor prepays P1.6B in loans

By Dexter L. Lorca

PHILIPPINE AMUSEMENT and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) has retired loans to two major lenders six years ahead of schedule in an effort to save on interest expenses after reporting strong revenue in the first four months of 2011.

In a statement, the state-owned gaming firm said that it had settled P1.66 billion in outstanding obligations to Philippine National Bank (PNB) and Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP).

The loans were taken out by previous Pagcor administrations since 2008, with the proceeds used to pay the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) for parcels of reclaimed land intended for the agency's Entertainment City project in Parañaque City.

"[But] the present management assumed office in July 2010, the remaining bank loans of the corporation stood at P1.663 billion," Pagcor chair and CEO Cristino Naguiat Jr. said.

"We completed prepayment of the borrowed amount on May 2 solely through internal funding."

While the loans had a six-year repayment term—maturing on 2016—Naguiat said the Pagcor management deemed it prudent to settle the obligations from internally generated cash earlier than scheduled.

"The saved Pagcor a total of P324.17 million in interest payments [which it would pay] had the loans not been pre-terminated", he said.

The Pagcor chief said the early settlement of the obligations were made possible by the strong performance especially in the first four months of the current fiscal year.

Pagcor earlier reported revenues of P13.13 billion for the first four months of the year, up by more than P2 billion from the P10.67 billion it earned in the same period last year.

"Sound business decisions and cost saving measures" also enabled the agency to reduce its operating expenses by almost 14 percent during the first four months of the year, Naguiat said.

Total savings during the period amounted to P686 million. For April alone, Pagcor reported savings of about P149 million.

The Entertainment City Manila is an integrated resort complex which Pagcor had proposed to develop on a reclaimed land along the coast of Manila Bay.

Initially conceptualized in 2002, the project is expected to become a flagship tourism project which will increase tourist arrivals in the Philippines and promote Manila as a world-class travel destination.

THE KING OF SING ALONG

Long before the karaoke and the videoke, a Pinoy invented an electric keyboard that was an organ that was a horn that was a violin that was a whole band in one music machine! People called it the "one-man-band" because it gave off a complete band sound: (drums included!) playing just one piano.
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INFOTECH

LG heightens 3-dimension feel

By Raquel R. Santos

3D TELEVISION appears to have reached its peak development now that major TV brands are populating stores with their versions of 3D TV.

Recently, LG Electronics announced the availability of its 3D Cinema TV. The Korean electronics company claims that its version is better than other current 3D TV technologies because the user requires only the use of cheap "passive" eyeglasses.

While other 3D TV makers like Samsung and Sony have opted to use shutter type glasses to enable 3D viewing on their 3D TVs, LG opted for another technology called FPR, or film type patterned retarder, which uses a polarized film on the screen to deliver different images for the left and right eyes.

Shutter glasses

These images are then matched up with the polarized 3D glasses and the result is a 3D picture that is flicker-free, explained Cyd Manzano, head of product marketing at LG Philippines.

FPR technology is better than shutter glasses in a number of ways, he said.

With shutter glasses, left and right images appear alternately. When a TV displays a left eye image, the glasses block the signal of the right eye image by closing the shutter of the right lens. But with FPR 3D technology, both left eye and right eye images appear simultaneously, allowing viewers to watch clear 3D content at any angle.

LG's Cinema 3D TV glasses are similar to the ones handed out in 3D theaters. They're so cheap, every member of a family can enjoy their screen in a jiffy, Manzano said.

Apart from being battery-free, LG's shutter glasses used by other 3D TVs can also cause eye fatigue, while the lightweight FPR glasses are free of electromagnetic waves since no energy will be needed to power them up, added Manzano. The glasses make for convenient and safe use.

LG's Cinema 3D TV also has a 2-light boost function — a Odu Blitz that ensures 3D images are shown at their full brightness.

This function also allows wide viewing angle and flexible viewing positions, enabling a whole group of people to watch a show while they are lying down.

Another feature of 3D TV brands, LG's Cinema 3D TV can convert a 2D format movie into a 3D format. But LG's 3D TV went further by allowing live shows streamed via cable TV to be converted into 3D format.

Home dashboard

Another good feature is the Home Dashboard and Magic Remote Control.

The Home Dashboard is an easy to navigate user interface that organized TV content into Live box (shows the current video stream), Premium box (cable services and channels such as HBO/PC, MOVIES, CINEMA, etc.), and the LG Apps box (games and more apps).

Below the boxes is a bar that shows the icons of the most used applications such as 3D Apps, Web Browser, Media Link, and games.

The Magic Remote Control functions like a mouse cursor enabling the user to easily access and load applications onscreen.

LG has partnered with SkyCable in order to populate its Cinema 3D TV with local content, Manzano said. In fact, a purchase of a Cinema 3D TV unit will guarantee three months free of SkyCable subscription, including broadband internet that may be enjoyed using Cinema 3D TV.

A 47-inch Cinema 3D TV may retail for P150,000 and comes with two pairs of 3D polarized glasses.

LG claims that the Optimus Black is a product of extensive research and design innovation.

A device that is sleek and bright in black

LG ELECTRONICS, the company that has brought you reliable and stylish mobile phones, has introduced the Optimus Black... an incredibly sleek, slick and light smartphone.

Its diminutive portion measures 6 mm while its thickest portion is 9.2 mm.

It is one of the lightest phones, weighing only 109 g.

LG claims that the smartphone is a product of extensive research and design innovation.

The LG Optimus Black boasts of a bright display with WGSA, which delivers optimal brightness and readability under any lighting conditions.

The crystal-clear display also provides a more natural web browsing experience by displaying true whites while simultaneously saving energy consumption by 50 percent compared to conventional LCDs.

In addition, the LG Optimus Black is equipped with a collection of smart features designed to improve user experience, such as Gesture UI, Wi-Fi Direct and a 5-MP front-facing and 5-MP back-facing camera.

Its 1 GHz processor ensures that your web browsing experience will not only be clear, but quick too.

The LG Optimus Black may also be powered by Android 2.2 Froyo, which is upgradable to Android 2.3 Gingerbread.

The LG Optimus Black is priced at P19,999. It is available in all LG Concept Stores and other authorized dealers nationwide by the first week of June.

Emerging technologies in social media to boost market research

THE EMERGENCE of Web 2.0 has changed how some businesses operate, including how market research can be done in this age, according to business consulting firm Synergy Business Consultancy.

Social networking, blogs, and video sharing sites, among others, can supplement traditional market research methods to obtain relevant consumer insights.

"Web 2.0 technologies enable real-time communication regardless of location, as long as you have Internet connectivity. This enables companies to have extensive reach to different levels of audience and receive instant feedback," said Emmanuel Reyes, managing director of Synergy.

In 2010, TCU, the UK agency for information and communication technologies, estimated that there are almost 30 million FB (plus Internet users, or 28.7 percent of the population. Since we don't have grown exponentially since 2006, when local Internet users were only pegged at 14 million.

"These new innovations can enable market research consultants to augment existing traditional methods to gather consumer insights. The emergence of social communities has prompted a new research strategy, netnography, where researchers study online human interactions," said Reyes.

This form of research has been used by marketers to gather consumer insights and transform and provide activation ideas for new brands or awareness with consumers preferences, and/or mindsets.

The method, according to Reyes, uses content analysis to better understand the comments, posts, and reactions of consumers online.

Facebook, which had more than 21 million Filipino members, is set to topped for netnography through its Group page. Creating a Facebook Group can provide the user the capability to invite a specific audience, which can therefore be a venue to conduct netnography, said Reyes.

Aside from using Facebook in netnography, the social networking site can be a medium to conduct surveys as well. Even Internet can conduct their own market research by only using Facebook, through its feature, Facebook Questions, which can enable users to create mini surveys or polls to gather insights on any topic.

Smartphone lets you experience more with less

SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS Philippines Corp. (SEPCO) is set to release its Galaxy S II smartphone in June, the company said in a statement.

The Samsung Galaxy S II runs on Android 2.3 Gingerbread, the latest version of the world's fastest-growing mobile operating system.

The next generation smartphone includes access to Samsung's four new content and entertainment hubs, seamlessly integrated to provide instant access to music, games, e-reading and social networking services.

"In 2011, we will take Samsung's leadership to speed, screen and content to a whole new level," said Elvin Ulanga of Aspect Mobile Communications Inc. exec. "With the Galaxy S II, Samsung wants to set the new standard of quality viewing on mobile, powerful performance, and ultra-cool industry design."

Incorporating a dual-core application processor and 4G-enhanced wireless network (HSDPA+ 21) connectivity the Galaxy S II has the speed and power to provide unrivaled mobile performance.

The 1.2-GHz Dual-core application processor delivers compelling features such as fast Web browsing, multitasking comparable to a PC-like environment, supreme graphics quality and instantly responsive 3D user interfaces on the large screens.

With super-fast HSDPA+ connectivity, the Galaxy S II delivers rapid mobile download speeds while IntelliScroll 2.0+HS considerably reduces data-transfer times.

The device has also been equipped with an 8-MP high-profile camera and camcorder with 1080p full HD recording and playback.

With Samsung's patented AllShare technology, consumers can capture, create and share their experiences hands-free.

Setting the standard of quality viewing on mobile, Super AMOLED Plus incorporates the best in quality to color gamut, contrast ratio and edge sharpness.

Using HoverTouch screen technology and a specially designed touch panel, Super AMOLED Plus complements the mechanics of the human eye to recognize longer look cleaner and more detailed than ever before.

Also, the Super AMOLED Plus display does not compromise battery performance. It delivers a significant reduction in power consumption.

For Panasonic, it's cool to be 'green'

By Eugene Kramer

THERE IS a growing need to address problems in the environment, brought about by climate change, which has been threatening the fragile ecological balance of this planet.

With that view in mind, Panasonic Manufacturing Philippines Corp. (PMPC) is bent on promoting initiatives that will contribute to solutions, rather than aggravate problems, by coming out with earth-friendly quality appliances.

Panasonic has introduced cooling and ventilation in its refrigerators, vending machines and compact stereo systems.

Ecologically sound

It also installed the "EcoNavi" feature in all its air conditioner models — wall-mounted, split type, and cassette type.

EcoNavi is an ecologically sound technology that intelligently detects when energy is wasted and automatically adjusts its cooling power to reduce waste. Its high precision sensors and control program technologies serve to optimize air conditioning based on specific room conditions.

The "EcoNavi" feature promises energy savings of up 30 percent. This is apart from the savings to be had using the Inverter technology, which may cut electricity consumption by as much as 70 percent.

Panasonic also introduces its free vending machine with anti-bacterial cleaning feature.

PANASONIC comes out with earth-friendly quality appliances.

The new Panasonic NA-F90S1 is equipped with an 8D Jets protection that allows water to pass through 8D Crystals, producing an anti-bacterial effect. As a result, consumers need not buy anti-bacterial products for their laundry.

Reducing power use

It is also equipped with an Automatic Off function that automatically shut down when during power outage and recalls its previous settings by pressing the start button via its Semi-Auto Restart function.

These new features may reduce energy consumption by an additional 5% percent and lessen power and during standby mode.

Energy efficient

Panasonic also improved consumers by introducing its latest line of "Inverter" series the "3D Series Plus Style Segment" and the "3M Series Inverter Segment" refrigerator models, which features the latest and highest energy efficiency ratings (EER), Inverter power control technology that delivers an energy consumption savings of up to 38 percent.

These doesn't. Panasonic's EC-M221 compact micro vacuum.

It delivers elegant and superb high fidelity audio experience for music lovers.

With these eco-friendly products, Panasonic hopes to fulfill to share in preserving the environment and preserving the ecological balance.

Hotmail flaw opens corporate workers to targeted attacks

RESEARCHERS FROM TrendLabs, the research laboratory of security firm Trend Micro, have discovered the source of a target-of e-mail attack detected in the wild over the last two weeks.

The attack involved e-mail messages sent through Hotmail, where a previously unpatched vulnerability in its processing of e-mail messages exploited through the use of a malicious message identified as HTML_ASSIN.SMU. The e-mail message proceeded to come from the Facebook Security Team.

A user receives seemingly innocuous e-mail messages that contain an embedded script, which automatically executes when a user opens the e-mail. The embedded e-mail script then connects to a specific website that downloads another script, JS_ASSIN.SMU.

This last script captures all the affected users' e-mails and forwards them to another e-mail address.

Microsoft has already updated Hotmail to fix the vulnerability.

Karl Dominguez of TrendLabs Threat Response said employees who open their personal Hotmail accounts in their offices risk exposing their corporate data to attack.

Dominguez stressed these email threats underscore the importance to not mix up work and personal accounts in their offices.

Cybercriminals are using social engineering to exploit office workers' familiarity for social networking sites in order to gain access to important corporate data.

DOF: Gov't has enough funds for CCT program

BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco responds to queries as Citi Philippine country officer Sanjiv Vohra listens during the launching of the Citi Hero: entrepreneur of the year awards held at the BSP Executive Business Center. ANSCOMPAS

Liability management programs bring big savings

By Ruonel W. Domingo

MALACAÑANG: Hitting more than enough funds for its conditional cash transfer (CCT) program, given the savings realized through sound management of the country's debts, according to Finance Secretary Cesar V. Purisima.

Purisima said that from January to April, the government saved P22.4 billion from lower interest payments.

"Interest payments dropped 16 percent during the period to just P182.15 billion from P216.86 billion last year," he said.

The finance chief added that the savings were more than enough to fund the government's CCT program, which was allocated a budget of P21.9 billion this year.

"The drop in interest payments can be traced to liability management programs conducted during the last months of 2010...such as bond swapped and the issuance of 25-year bonds," Purisima explained.

The lower interest payments made it easier for government to pursue during the period, he said.

In the first months in April, disbursements decreased by 13.6 percent to P461.33 billion from P525.87 billion.

"For April alone, state spending declined 8.03 percent to P112.1 billion from P125.9 billion year-on-year," Purisima said.

Interest payments during the month declined by 27 percent to P11.43 billion from P15.65 billion a year ago.

Last week, Budget Secretary Florencio B. Abad said P1.4 percent of the 2.34 million families targeted for the P21 billion conditional cash transfer(CCT) program had been identified, helping dashed that the fund might not be used before.

"At the pace the 4Ps [Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program] is proceeding, all 2.34 million indigent household beneficiaries may already receive their cash grants as early as September," Abad said.

He added that all targeted beneficiaries would have been registered by the end of June.

The budget chief said that as of the end of April—four months since the program kicked off—1.9 million indigent household beneficiaries or 81.6 percent of the 2.34 million ranges for 2011 had already been registered.

Citing data from the Department of Social Welfare and Development, he said 1.47 million households were expected to have started receiving their cash subsidies.

"That's 77 percent of the registered households and 63 percent of the target," he said.

Under the CCT component of 4Ps, indigent household beneficiaries receive a monthly stipend of up to P1,400, or P600 per mother and P300 per child up to 14.

This is on condition that mothers from these families should undergo pre-natal and other maternal care check-ups, and that children attend 85 percent of their classes and that they are immunized.

BSP calls for increased lending to micro enterprises

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is pushing for increased lending to micro enterprises in the country.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said there had been a significant improvement in the accessibility of credit to micro enterprises in the country, as proven by the substantial amount of loans extended to and the rising number of borrowers from the sector.

Tetangco, however, acknowledged that there was still much room for growth. While micro loans have become accessible in several rural areas, the same is not true for many of the remote areas in the country.

Tetangco said strategies to reach these remote areas should be pursued aggressively.

Outstanding loans to micro enterprises have amounted to P6.5 billion, covering 950,000 borrowers. Micro enterprises also have P3 billion in combined bank savings.

There are 1,300 cooperatives and non-government organizations engaged in lending and other services to micro businesses.

"Micro finance can effectively be implemented within a formal and prudentially-regulated environment ... small clients can become good clients given suitable products and services," Tetangco said in a speech delivered during the launch of the 2011 Microenterpreneur of the Year (MEOY) Awards last Friday.

MEOY, which is now on its 6th year, recognizes small borrowers who were able to improve their lives and of their families, and have served as models to other low-income earners, through hard work and their entrepreneurial skills.

MEOY is hosted by Citi Foundation and is conducted in partnership with the BSP, Citi Philippines and the Microfinance Council of the Philippines Inc. (MCPI).

MCPI president Alla Hernandez-Bunker said that to promote entrepreneurship among people in remote areas in the country, the non-government organization had started income-earning training programs in selected areas.

She said educating people to become entrepreneurs was the first step to encourage them to engage in micro businesses. Considering the first step is necessary to open demand for micro credit and to ensure that borrower responsible borrowers, Bunker added.

While the government and MCPI hope to see more credit extended to people from the hard-to-reach areas, Bunker said it was also important that the borrowers were enticed to become responsible in meeting their financial obligations.

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Telcos see higher profits in Q2

By Paolo G. Montecillo

LOCAL TELECOMMUNICATION firms expect their second quarter earnings to be above 2010 levels, as their countrywide customers help keep profits up despite a dip in call and text service revenues.

Network giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) earlier said its second quarter profit had so far been up over 20 percent from the government's goal for the year.

"Second quarter revenues are a little bit challenged but our bottom line is still okay," PLDT president and CEO Napoleon Nazareno said in an interview. "We're doing well," he said, adding that its second quarter performance would likely be better than that in the first quarter of the year.

PLDT reported a 6-percent drop in profit in the first quarter to P16.7 billion, down from the P17.4 billion registered a year ago.

Its core net profit, which strips out one-time gains and losses, was up 1 percent to P20.6 billion in the first quarter.

The company said service revenue fell 4 percent to P56.6 billion in the first quarter due to the strengthening of the peso. Call and text service earnings, which accounted for two-thirds of the group's service revenue, also slid by 4 percent.

Wired network Globe Telecom Inc. said its net income "continues to be shaky," but noted that the Ayala-led firm was expecting competition to further intensify as companies fight for biggest market shares.

"Last quarter, we were up in terms of number shares and P/ZTE was down. I think the second half could be more competitive," Globe chief financial officer Alberto de Larrazabal said in an interview.

"We're already feeling the pressures on pricing," he added, noting that its rival, which controls 35 percent of the market, has been bringing down its rates.

Globe earlier said its net income rose 1 percent in the first quarter, the first increase in quarterly profit since the start of last year.

Net income after tax of P1 billion in the first quarter was above 50 percent improvement from the fourth quarter of 2010.

39% rise in metals output eyed

By Kaz T. Ditchendes

THE GOVERNMENT is projecting a double-digit growth in metallic mineral production in 2011 from last year, as commodity prices continue to increase and investors reportedly continued interest in tapping the country's resources.

Data from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) showed that the government was expecting mining firms to produce P137.38 billion worth of metals this year.

MGB Director Leo L. Jasareno confirmed the forecast during a phone interview. He said the government was aiming for a 38-percent increase in metallic mineral output this year from year ago level.

Asked for the basis of the optimistic projection, Jasareno said commodity prices, including those of metals, continued to improve. "Gold, iron nickel, prices are still high," Jasareno said.

Jasareno said part of the government's optimism came from the sustained interest of investors to engage in mining in the country to serve demand from China and South Korea.

The expected reconstruction in Japan, which suffered massive infrastructure damage from an earthquake and tsunami in the first quarter of 2011, is also seen to prop up demand for metals.

The government is also moving to purge idle mining applications and streamline procedures for the awarding of permits. For one, the government is keen on holding on mineralized properties where previous claims were cancelled due to lack of activity.

The Philippines expects mining investments to reach $17.35 billion by 2016. Total cumulative mining investments from 2004 to 2010 reached $3.831 billion.

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Inspire the Next

BUSINESS Monday
Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Rapista

Dress up your rooms with new designer air conditioners

CONCEPCION-CARRIER executives (from left) Robert C. Ferbanera Jr., vice president for sales and marketing; Rajan Kannanoo, chief financial officer; Raul Joseph Concepcion, CEO; and Alla Rodriguez, channel sales director.

By Theresa S. Samaniego

CUSTOMERS nowadays are harder to please. Demanding to get more value out of every peso they spend, Filipino buyers have already learned to be fussy in choosing with their purchases.

"Consumers are changing. Ten years ago it was just about product. Today, it's more than just the product—it's the experience [that the product provides]," says Raul Joseph Concepcion, chief executive officer of Concepcion-Carrier Air Conditioning (CCAC).

"The consumer is very, very smart—he has access to the Internet; he knows about the product, so you can't fool him. What you have to do is exchange ideas, build an experience that he would look for in your product," Concepcion says in an interview.

Giving a whole new level of experience was exactly what CCAC was trying to provide, according to Concepcion, with the recent launching of the company's Carrier Designer Series air-conditioner.

"With the Carrier Designer Series, we wish to give our customers the best of both worlds: good looks and great features in one working solution," Concepcion adds.

"When we talked to consumers, they were looking for several things. They were looking for stylish air conditioners. They wanted those in different colors; the best in Ultraviolet system; something that saves them energy; something that protects them unit. So we put everything together and came up with [the Designer Series]," he further explains.

Energy savings

Most notable in the Carrier Designer Series is its energy management features, which can help cuts in one's electricity expenses, amid high power prices.

Such features would include a rain-hour timer, which works like a prepaid card that would allow the owner to automatically program the air conditioner either based on the monthly budget or target usage per month. A cycle timer has been built in in the air conditioners, allowing one to program the unit to turn on and off at 30-minute intervals.

Compared to the regular, old-or air conditioners, the Designer Series would allow one to save roughly as much as P13,000 in electricity costs per year.

The company explained that 10-year-old airunits, for instance, consume an average of 40.6 watts of electricity as against the current model of Carrier, which consumes only 4.6 watts. This would translate to savings of about 88 percent, it added.

Apart from these energy-saving measures, the Designer Series is also equipped with an 8-to-1 filter system, which could trap fungi and dust particles; UL-tor out smoke and odors; kill germs; and neutralize the so-called free radicals that can harm the skin.

The Carrier airunit's self-diagnosis features would also ensure years of worry-free operations.

"This innovative cooling solution blends the dependability of Carrier with the sleek and high style—one that is beautiful on the outside, intelligent on the inside," Concepcion says.

Made available only this month, the Carrier Designer Series window air conditioner sells for P25,000 to P30,000, depending on the horsepower capacity.

Market leader

CCAC says it remains to be the market leader for cooling systems with the kind's share of 45 percent to the local industry.

"[On being No. 1], I would believe that it had to do with the values of the company. Integrity and innovation—those are key foundations," he says.

Even after 50 years of providing efficient cooling solutions, CCAC believes that it continues to hold an edge over its competitors not only because it has the global technology expertise but it also develops features that are relevant and suitable to the Filipino market.

Although CCAC has already garnered a considerable chunk of the local market share, Concepcion believes that this can still grow as the industry is also seen to expand further over the long term.

Concepcion explains that out of 16 million families in the Philippines, only 18 percent or 1.8 million have airunits in their homes, which means that a portion of that 16.2 million families can still be a potential market. In fact, CCAC expects its penetration level to even go up to 20 to 30 percent in the long run.

"So if you look at that, the (long-term) potential is tremendous and that is what we're really investing in—that this market is going to grow to explode. You're seeing (that growth) with the buildings coming up. However, there are some challenges, such as inflation, which would probably slow down the growth the year," he says.

Despite the challenges, however, Concepcion says CCAC is still expecting a conservative 5- to 10-percent growth in 2011.

In solar power lies a powerful policy instrument

By Amy R. Remo

OF ALL the renewable energy sources, solar power must have received the most flak, notably for being relatively more expensive than the others.

Still, local and foreign developers remained bullish of harnessing established target of a 500-megawatt solar capacity boosting Philippine power supply in the near term, from the current 1 MW and having 18 companies in the country with the mode of BuyPower Philippines, whose monthly testing plant in Laguna was reported to be the first large-scale solar cell facility in Southeast Asia.

Thorsen Cruz-Capellan, president of the Philippine Solar Power Alliance (PSPA), believes that in 10 years' time, some 30 percent of households in the country will have their own solar panels, powering their electricity consumption via solar energy.

Capellan, however, lamented that many Filipinos—both from the private sector and the government—are reluctant and wary about this resource mainly because of the misconceptions about solar power.

"Don't discriminate or exclude any one form specific individuals," she stresses, noting further that, once the long term, solar power would be the choice resource as this can be put up at the point of consumption or retail, unlike other renewable energy sources.

After all, given the current advancement in technology in that he, possible that soon enough, households will be using solar kits that can be readily installed on their homes, allowing them to enjoy the benefits of living in a tropical country.

Capellan admits that for now, prices of solar panels that can be installed on household rooftops are quite steep. But she argues the technology to become more affordable in the future as the next a global trend in which the world will "invest" among other renewable energy sources. And this, too, can happen in the country.

Viability

Capellan says this scenario will likely happen should solar developers manage to turn the Philippines into a solar manufacturing hub of Southeast Asia—a dream they expect to achieve once solar power has been "democratized" and its misconception dispelled.

A PSPA puts the finishing touches on a solar panel installed on a roof of the Fr. Augustine building at La Consolacion College in Manila.
GODOFREDO VELOS

According to PSPA, the Philippines has an established geographical advantage in solar power. The country, being near the equator, is located in the world's sun belt and has an insolation index of 1,200, ensuring investors of the Philippine solar energy potential.

Other countries even have less insolation because of the winter season. Yet, even with less sunlight, these countries produce significant amount of solar energy, such as Germany, which sits 9 percent of its electricity requirements come from 8.9 gigawatt bases of power generated from solar energy.

Solutions to energy demand

Energy analysts, the group claims, are optimistic that the Philippines can convert sunlight to power, thanks to the country's strategic location. Our power is located in Ilo. Rosa, Laguna, as its presence provides the country easy access to market-ready technology to build large solar plants.

Further, manpower is said to be available to absorb the planned installations. Years of solar power-related activities in the rural areas created a pool of installers capable of providing construction support to solar companies and contractors planning to build solar plants, the group adds.

In the current Philippine energy situation, solar energy according to its developers, can become viable residential solutions to energy-thirsted given the fact that prices of fossil fuels continue to rise; a power crisis in the country is also imminent; and that solar facilities can be readily put up in six months to two years' time to mitigate a possible supply shortage.

Also, solar home systems have since provided solutions to the rural areas, especially across the country. Over 10,000 homes have been energized with this resource, providing electricity to those affected families.

"Amid rising prices of oil and coal and the pressing power crisis in Mindanao, the solar power industry hopes to harness a powerful policy instrument handed by Congress to drive the renewable energy solutions forward and bring the country closer to energy dependence and energy access for all," Capellan explains.

Summit

On June 1 to 3, solar developers, in tandem with the Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Foundation, are holding the first Philippine Solar Photovoltaic Summit at the SMX Convention Center.

According to Capellan, the summit targets to enlighten the public on the misconceptions regarding solar energy and well as bring together representatives from government, business, leading institutions, research agencies, as well as the manufacturers, suppliers and power generation companies engaged in solar water heating, cell fabrication, solar farming, systems integration and RE solutions.

Hans Josef Still, a member of the German Bundestag and member of the renewable energy measure in Germany, will be in the country to share with the delegates how solar energy worked in his country. Other speakers representing Asia, Europe and North America markets will also share best practices and the challenges they encountered as they sought to find RE solutions, technologies and results.

Launching the 2nd MAP CSR Leadership Challenge

IN TODAY'S changing business landscape where sustainability is as much a requirement as it is a good, management excellence is no longer defined by organizational performance alone. Rather, it is the combined result of a company's commitment to three important areas: good governance, environmental sustainability, and corporate social responsibility (CSR).

Of the three, CSR is probably the most misunderstood by Philippine companies. Unfortunately many companies view CSR as a mere synonym for corporate giving. Corporate giving, of course, is not necessarily a bad thing. CSR, however, goes beyond that.

Business model

For a CSR program to be truly meaningful, it has to incorporate the tenets of good governance and sustainability into a company's business model. In this respect, CSR becomes a built-in mechanism that ensures an organization's commitment to the so-called triple bottom line—the financial, environmental and social responsibilities of an organization. CSR binds an organization to the highest principles of integrity and ethics.

I am then encouraged by the efforts of the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) to actively promote sustainable CSR models among Filipino companies. In keeping with its aspiration to create a culture of integrity and accountability in the Philippines, MAP is advocating the use of CSR as the model by which Filipino organizations may embrace the principles of integrity and good governance.

To promote and recognize exemplary CSR programs, MAP is holding the CSR Leadership Challenge, a program that also gives the spotlight to organizations whose CSR policies, programs, and practices deserve to be emulated.

The CSR Leadership Challenge aims to promote CSR as an important and integral part of good management practices, while at the same time recognizing those organizations that exemplify true corporate citizenship.

Recognition

It also aims to inspire other companies that share the same ideals and objectives, that they may continue to find new ways to upgrade CSR practices in the Philippines. By going beyond corporate compliance, transparency and accountability, companies that are equally involved in addressing social and environmental issues contributing the Philippines can be acknowledged.

MAP will give recognition to those companies that successfully integrate CSR into their businesses, and are able to bring their social vision into their management operations and programs, starting with their corporate mission and vision, overall corporate strategy, as well as operations. There will also be special awards for companies with exemplary CSR programs in the fields of advocation, enterprise development, environment and sustainable development, health, and integrated rural area development.

To show the strategic value of CSR to a company's operations, the stories of the winners and participants will be turned into case studies to be used by the Ateneo Graduate School of Business. This, I believe, is a good way to perpetuate and learn from their experiences, while at the same time exploring new models that can work well in the Philippine setting.

As a communication professional, I always stress that communication is an important component of a successful CSR program. Even if, as stated, it may not seem to be apparent.

Ultimate proof

When I say communication, I am not talking about media write-ups, but rather, continuing and effective conversations with stakeholders within and outside the organization. Internal communications is particularly important for CSR to truly become part of an organization's DNA. Managers should be consulted throughout the application process for the top-level to the rank and file—for them to understand and embrace it. Moreover, this should be clearly stated, understood and communicated by everyone in the organization.

Finally, the ultimate proof that the company truly lives by its CSR programs is when it is embedded in its business agenda, performance evaluation, budget allocation, human resource programs, as well as its communications and outreach programs.

Indeed, a meaningful and true CSR program is not an ad hoc or one-off project that is largely dependent on a company's desire and ability to support it. Rather, it is embedded in the company's thinking and operations, and is treated in its overall strategy and driven by its business goals.

It entails strategic thinking and planning and the commitment of the leaders of a company. Companies with true CSR programs are thought leaders and innovators that deserve to be recognized, that they may be emulated by others.

For more information on the MAP CSR Leadership Challenge, visit www.mapcsrleadershipchallenge.ph.

The author is managing director of IDS. The Stakeholder Initiative Firm and chair of the MAP CSR Committee. Feedback at map@globelines.com.ph.

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New heritage law seen to expropriate art and cultural works unjustly

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New heritage law seen to expropriate art and cultural works unjustly

By Angelica Estavez
Contributor

A collector who wants to resell a work has to secure a license from the state

"Where are we to get your property," said Victor Avecilla, legal counsel of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), in a public forum at Pinoy Ink Tiki gallery, Makati City, on May 21.

The forum was held to discuss Republic Act 10066, known as the National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009.

The forum gathered an NCCA representative and art gallery owners, art collectors and enthusiasts, such as Pinoy movie stars Vilma Santos and actress Frances Gil lroyo.

The law, the implementing guidelines of which have yet to be drawn, states that it aims to "protect, preserve, conserve and promote the nation's cultural heritage, resources and ecosystem, institutions and strengthen cultural institutions and protect cultural realms and ensure their preservation, development and well-being."

It contains provisions which have alarmed art and cultural heritage enthusiasts. Angeles said she wanted to seek amendments to "clear up the air" and clarify details of the heritage law.

Beneficial and vague points

Gil lroyo, who credited the powerpoint presentation used during the forum, highlighted details of the heritage act, stating some of its beneficial and vague points.

"Good aspect[s]" of the law include Article 9 (Cultural Property Committee Program), which provides a "donee tax exemption on all donations in aid/ form to the Commission (NCCA) and its affiliated cultural agencies, and the same shall be considered as allowable deduction from the gross income or the computation of the income tax of the donor, in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended (Section 95).

Another positive aspect is the law's provision for a National Heritage Resource Assistance Program (Section 26).

Most of the questions centered on Article 5, Section 5: "For purposes of protecting a cultural property against expropriation, modification or destruction, the following works shall be considered important: Cultural Property, unless declared otherwise by the president and/ or agency."

Cultural property would include works such as "Music by Maestro Ang Bayan and Binibining Ang Bayan and National Artists, unless declared otherwise by NCCA; archeological and traditional ethnographic materials; unless declared otherwise by the National Museum; those by national heroes; ancient structures and structures during at least 50 years old, unless declared otherwise by National Archives."

Very broad provision

Critics say the provision is very broad and classifies just about everything as cultural property. They say the provision is unnecessary to state expropriation of cultural works, many of them in private hands.

Angeles said the province's court might be delimited by the emphasizing rules and regulations.

Included in the act is the supervision of the dealings of the cultural property as stated in Article 5, Section 11: "No cultural property shall be sold, resold, or taken out of the country without first securing a clearance from the cultural agency concerned. In case the property shall be taken out of the country, it shall notify he for the purpose of scientific research or exhibit."

Leading evidence to the violator/ commission that the law violates private property rights, the law classifies a "collector" in "any person who, or institution that, acquires cultural property for purposes other than sale.

When Villegas stated the possibility of a "collector" wanting to resell his/ her...Angeles said the "collector" would still have to get a license.

Esperanza Garbanzos, former heritage who consulted of NCCA and member of the technical group working on the new law's IRR, said that the implementation of the law aimed to protect the country's cultural resources.

"We need the objects that will inform us to see the developments of the nation," she said.

To see a complete copy of the R.A. 10066, visit the Heritage Conservation Society website, http://www.heritage.org.ph/.

National Heritage Month closes in Dapitan

THE NATIONAL Heritage Month celebration held the closing ceremony in Dapitan, Zamboanga del Norte, on May 27, led by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA).

Dapitan was chosen because the nation is celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Jose Rizal, acclaimed hero.

For the closing, the NCCA National Committee on Art Galleries, National Committee on Historical Research and National Committee on Museums held "Heritage Alive" at the Rizal Shrine in Dapitan.

Dapitan was declared a Cultural Heritage Zone by the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP). The declaration ceremony was attended by NCCA chair Felipe de Leon and NCCA executive director Malou Jacob.

Ludovico Badoy, NHCP executive director, and Jeremy Barns, director of the National Museum of the Philippines, were present.

Dapitan Mayor Dominador Jalosjos and Vice Mayor Jerry Chan, as well as Zamboanga Gov. Rolando Yebes, attended.

Capping the momentous day was a concert at 7:30 p.m. showcasing local performances as well as guests from Metro Manila.

The National Heritage Month was created by Proclamation No. 439 signed on August 11, 2003, declaring the month of June of every year as National Heritage Month. This is "in recognition of the need to create among the people a consciousness, respect and pride for the legacies of Filipino cultural history, and love of country."

This year, the celebration was led by the NCCA's Subcommission on Cultural Heritage, headed by Regidor Tom Jose. This year's theme, "Tinad: Weaving Our Stories, Threading Our Paths," gave us a glimpse of the legacies of the past and how to maintain the objects that remind us of the future. It is a recognition and celebration of the different aspects of our national cultural heritage—our traditional art forms and practices, important cultural structures (both movable and immovable, and other objects of cultural importance, whether tangible or intangible).

THE CELEBRATION is to create among the people "a consciousness, respect and pride for the legacies of Filipino cultural history, and love of country."

Portrait of Bencab as master printmaker

By Ciel Reyes
Lead Buzzer

AFTER THIS show, there should be no more print shows." Thus remarked National Artist Benedicto Cao to this writer at the launching of "Bencab Graphics: A Print Retrospective" at the BCCA gallery.

Enacted with the uncharacteristic zing of an artist, the judgment was meant not to be taken literally, of course, but to make a point: the high level to which fellow National Artist Bencab has brought the art of printmaking.

For so long regarded as peripheral to painting, printmaking had to prove itself to a critic de luxe genre. Portraiture's finest in the genre of artists through the centuries—Albrecht Durer, Rembrandt, Hogarth, Goya, Toulouse, Ilire, Kollwitz, Munch, Cassatt, Picasso, Matisse, Hockney, Johns—printmaking no longer languishes in the shadows of painting. The Japanese woodcut artists, such as Hokusai and Utamaro, in fact, were a significant influence on the works of the Impressionists.

To be sure, Philippine art has produced its own masterworks in printmaking: from the pioneering Fernando Buencamino Sr. down to Raul Isidro, Manly Rotardo, Til de la Cruz, Ambie Abadilla, and Benjie Rotardo Cabrera. Established artists, such as Lee Aguinaldo, Magsaysay-Ho and Malang, have also enriched their art through printmaking.

While the graphic works of Bencab are iconographical extensions of his paintings, they are richly endowed with their own inherent qualities. The various graphic arts—woodcut, lithograph, etching, mezzotint, serigraph—each have their own unique virtues.

Through five decades of painting, Bencab has nurtured his passion for printmaking, from the late 1960s when he learned the rudiments of the medium in the workshop of the late Manang Reyes Limbaco, through his years of experimentation in London, to his recent residency at the Singapore Tyler Print Institute (STPI).

To date, Bencab is the only artist, Asian or European, accorded the honor of a research invitation, making available to him all the state-of-the-art facilities and technical expertise of the STPI staff.

"BENCAB"

"HEROES of the Past"

"BOXED Objects"

Primal images

Half a century since his first print is a distant enough time to trigger in the artist and the viewer a sense of nostalgia. Throughout the major themes of Bencab, there runs a primal images that are universal in their appeal. Whether it is the mother and child, the family, the couple, the tribal warrior, the fisherfolk, the farmer, the cockfighter, the carabao, the rooster, the dog, the cat, the bird, the fish, the flower, the tree, the mountain, the sea, the sky, the sun, the moon, the stars, the clouds, the rain, the wind, the fire, the earth, the water, the air, the light, the darkness, the shadow, the reflection, the mirror, the window, the door, the gate, the fence, the wall, the roof, the floor, the ceiling, the chair, the table, the bed, the lamp, the clock, the book, the pen, the paper, the ink, the brush, the canvas, the frame, the easel, the palette, the knife, the scissors, the hammer, the nail, the screw, the wood, the metal, the glass, the stone, the clay, the fabric, the thread, the needle, the button, the zipper, the shoe, the hat, the glove, the scarf, the belt, the watch, the ring, the necklace, the earring, the bracelet, the anklet, the tattoo, the scar, the wrinkle, the smile, the frown, the laugh, the cry, the sigh, the kiss, the hug, the handshake, the wave, the point, the gesture, the pose, the dance, the song, the music, the instrument, the orchestra, the band, the concert, the theater, the movie, the television, the radio, the computer, the internet, the phone, the camera, the photograph, the video, the game, the sport, the ball, the bat, the racket, the net, the goal, the score, the win, the loss, the draw, the tie, the prize, the medal, the trophy, the crown, the throne, the king, the queen, the prince, the princess, the knight, the dragon, the castle, the tower, the bridge, the river, the lake, the ocean, the island, the beach, the sand, the shell, the coral, the fish, the whale, the dolphin, the shark, the octopus, the squid, the crab, the lobster, the shrimp, the seaweed, the boat, the ship, the sail, the anchor, the oar, the paddle, the fishing rod, the net, the bait, the hook, the line, the float, the sinker, the reel, the tackle box, the life jacket, the lighthouse, the pier, the harbor, the port, the dock, the warehouse, the crane, the container, the truck, the train, the plane, the helicopter, the car, the bicycle, the motorcycle, the bus, the jeepney, the tricycle, the pedicab, the carriage, the horse, the cart, the wheel, the road, the highway, the bridge, the tunnel, the traffic light, the sign, the map, the compass, the globe, the flag, the monument, the statue, the fountain, the park, the garden, the tree, the flower, the bird, the butterfly, the bee, the ant, the spider, the web, the leaf, the branch, the trunk, the root, the seed, the fruit, the vegetable, the meat, the fish, the egg, the milk, the cheese, the bread, the rice, the noodle, the soup, the salad, the dessert, the cake, the pie, the cookie, the candy, the chocolate, the ice cream, the coffee, the tea, the juice, the soda, the beer, the wine, the liquor, the glass, the cup, the plate, the bowl, the spoon, the fork, the knife, the chopstick, the napkin, the table, the chair, the menu, the waiter, the chef, the kitchen, the restaurant, the bar, the hotel, the room, the bed, the pillow, the blanket, the sheet, the towel, the soap, the shampoo, the toothbrush, the toothpaste, the mirror, the shower, the bathtub, the toilet, the sink, the faucet, the drain, the tile, the floor, the wall, the ceiling, the window, the door, the key, the lock, the safe, the money, the bank, the ATM, the credit card, the debit card, the check, the cash, the coin, the bill, the receipt, the invoice, the contract, the agreement, the deal, the business, the office, the desk, the chair, the computer, the printer, the scanner, the fax machine, the phone, the email, the internet, the website, the blog, the social media, the marketing, the advertising, the sales, the customer, the client, the boss, the employee, the colleague, the meeting, the presentation, the report, the spreadsheet, the database, the software, the hardware, the network, the server, the cloud, the data, the 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aim, the shot, the miss, the hit, the kill, the death, the funeral, the cemetery, the grave, the tombstone, the epitaph, the mourning, the grief, the sorrow, the pain, the suffering, the healing, the recovery, the relapse, the remission, the cure, the prevention, the vaccination, the immunization, the antibody, the virus, the bacteria, the infection, the disease, the illness, the symptom, the diagnosis, the prognosis, the treatment, the medication, the prescription, the dosage, the side effect, the allergy, the reaction, the overdose, the addiction, the withdrawal, the rehab, the detox, the therapy, the counseling, the support group, the hotline, the emergency, the ambulance, the hospital, the clinic, the doctor, the nurse, the patient, the visit, the appointment, the waiting room, the examination room, the operating room, the recovery room, the intensive care unit, the emergency room, the pharmacy, the drugstore, the prescription, the medication, the dosage, the side effect, the allergy, the reaction, the overdose, the addiction, the withdrawal, the rehab, the detox, the therapy, the counseling, the support group, the hotline, the emergency, the ambulance, the hospital, the clinic, the doctor, the nurse, the patient, the visit, the appointment, the waiting room, the examination room, the operating room, the recovery room, the intensive care unit, the emergency room, the pharmacy, the drugstore

While his graphic works are iconographical extensions of his paintings, they are richly endowed with their own inherent qualities

Suite of 3 prints

While seemingly disparate from the classic dioramas of Bencab's "Boxed Objects," a suite of three prints, are a marvel, well-cast in artful line to sight. A somewhat tone is evoked by the assembly of unrelated objects—spray shells, pottery, a pair of pants, figural sculptures, an amateur looking like a very Guanzonesque, a native chicken cage—within the restricted space of a box, framed by a deck.

Bencab's seasoned drawing skills come to the fore in this complex process of line etching and aquatint. The word "etching" comes from scratch. Dutch for "to eat." The design in an etching is eaten out of the metal by chemicals.

Aquatint is an intaglio technique for creating tones and textures on a metal etching plate. The plate, is sprinkled with powdered resin, then heated so that the resin melts and clings to the plate, creating a porous, overall ground. Intaglio comes from the Italian to engrave, meaning "to cut, carve or engrave." ("Primer: The Facts and Fun of Collecting, Family Room").

Recent prints done during Bencab's Singapore stint are superseded mainly by "Glimpses of the Past," featuring Grandfatherly natives, depicted in their past and present careers, from barrio fiestas to Senado discord.

The tension between the past and present of the Filipino has been ever constant in Bencab's oeuvre. It is a defining insight in his art, transcending the visual seduction of the cursorily charming and picturesque.

Bencab's print retrospective runs until June 12. The BCCA Gallery is at 6/F MCIA Bldg. 639 General Luna St., Intramuros, Manila. Call 5372192 and 2230.

3rd UST national arts-criticism workshop names panelists

THE UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas has announced the speakers and panelists in the 3rd U. Rhodel Marcelo Workshop (RPE) in Criticism on the Arts and Humanities.

National Artist R. Rhodel Jose will keynote the seminar-workshop.

Panelist-critics include Timothy Logan (University of the Philippines), art historian Santiago Al-fonso "Sarge" Pilar (UP-DFA), curator and art-market director Cid Calderon (UST); 2011 Manila International project director Brian Rubillos, Dean Camposantos and Gary Devilla (Ateneo de Manila University); Roland Tolentino (UP and Mamamayang Pelikulang Pilipino); Delfin Tolentino (UP Baguio); Ferdinand Lopez and Ralph Galan (UST); and Leo Rabanta (UST, Philippine Daily Inquirer and Mo-mento).

Thirteen young critics from all over the country have been named JRCAS-lers. Their manuscripts, which will be critiqued by the panelists, have for their objects of inquiry and analysis the literary, visual, music, performing, graphic and digital arts.

The criticism workshop, which will be held May 20 June 3 (Regular) in Intramuros and sponsored and sponsored by The Intramuros, the 10-year-old official student organ of UST. It is held in honor of the late National Artist for the Visual Arts and art critic J. Elizalde Navarro, who was an editor and critique-poet of The Varsitarian during his student days. It is also held in connection with the 400th anniversary of UST this year as Asia's oldest university.

Cashless McDelivery wherever, whenever with BPI-i.Can Mobile Mall

"MAINE-Mine Train," by Mark Justiniani

"JUDGMENT Day," by Alfredo Esquillo, Jr.

"OIL SPILL," by Jose Santos III

'Monumental' works at Manila Contemporary

TIN-AW ART Gallery with Manila Contemporary presents "Monumental," a show of nine large-scale art works by some of the best-known contemporary Filipino artists.

The center of attention is an art collector's dream come true: Mike Arbes, Pitz Bollipata, Elmer Borlongan, Arturo Dobovo, Alfredo Esquillo Jr., Mark Justiniani, Joy Mallari, Moyo Munoz, and John Sexion III.

"Monumental" is running at Manila Contemporary (Whittington 221-d, Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City). Call +63 2 8417320 or e-mail info@manilacontemporary.com.

"HERE on Earth," by Maya Muñoz

"MY SIDE of Dream," by Pitz Bollipata

"PAGLAHOM," by Elmer Borlongan

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LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

Young pianist Kao Sugata gives a recital for a cause

By Antonio C. Hila
Contributor

LAST MARCH 11 devastating earthquake and tsunami shocked the world. Among those affected were Filipinos who lived within the hazard zone of the nuclear power plants which suffered meltdown. They had to be repatriated home.

At the time, young Japanese pianist Kao Sugata, finishing his master Cycle Studies here, planned to give a recital this June to celebrate her completion of middle school at the Manila International School.

The recital was instead held this 15, earlier than planned, to raise funds for the victims.

The venue was the handsome Lenox Manila Inc. showroom at Scott's Institute Global City.

Pilliners Li, chair of Toyota Dealers Association, spearheaded the well-attended event. Carlo Chuyaguy hosted the soirée.

SUGATA (center) with Lenox officials

Rapturous listening

Kao gave a riveting performance. She impressed her audience with her well-nuanced music. Her projection was superb, and her touch, kept in the singing tradition, was admirable. Her tones tumble music marked by sweet promise.

She eloquently showed legato singing agility and allure in one of waltzes in the opening trio: Bach's Prelude and Fugue numbers.

In Beethoven's Etude n Capriccio, Op. 129 ("The Rage over a Lost Penny"), she clinched a mature technique and sensitive musicality much more evident in succeeding numbers in Part 2 of the program.

She capped this first part with Mendelssohn's Grand Trio, Op. 49, with which she struck a warm ensemble with violinist Rose Marie B. Dionisio and Fides O. Sta. Ana, both members of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra. Together, they played in close rapport that kept the audience enthralled.

In the succeeding recitals, Kao displayed prominent virtuosity. Her Chopin Etude ("Winter Wind") showed even dramatic configurations etched in relatively no-time lines.

She was formidably engaging in Liszt's Rigoletto paraphrase. The running passages were smooth and the chords decisively robust. She kept each dramatic tenuity till the new Liszt number, the sixth of the Paganini Etudes.

Interintuitive, she showed a deep concern in Debussy as she enjoyed the recital suite Prelude's Toccata, Op.11, which was rendered with aplomb!

Pianist to watch

Definitely Kao is a young pianist to watch!

At the end of the recital, Mitchumbo Sugata, president of Toyota Motor Philippines Corporation, joined by his wife Setsuko, was presented a floral suite of the clock realized through the concert by Li to the amount of P3.5 million.

Mr. Sugata said the amount would be turned over to the Philippine Red Cross to be remitted to the Japan Rehabilitation Fund.

He thanked the co dealer's association officers and members with their spouses, the Japanese expatriates in the audience, and Carol Lee, piano diva of Toyota Alabang, for hosting the piano and providing drinks for the cocktails.

He also expressed his thanks to the other two musicians, the audience who came in droves, and professor Cecile B. Bonoan, who believed in the talent and capability of their daughter Kao.

CHECK donation from the concert

SUPERB projection and notable nuance

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

A. LIPPA — BY JESS ABRERA

PUGAD BABOY — BY PAL JUNIOR

DICK TRACY

LOVEBOTS — BY ELIZABETH CHECHELLI

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

RIKO MACHINE — BY TAHIR ABRERA

BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

HUTTE — BY JIM TOOMEY

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN — BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TAGBOG — BY MARA COLL

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DIGAO

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Treat your misconceptions like bubble. And for those of you who are shopping, don't be so impulsive. Buy only what you need for yourself and your loved ones. Is good money that!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Today the Moon is in your sign creating a lovely aspect with Mars and Venus, which means you are energetic and charming. Everyone will want to be in your company.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Indication is beautiful surrounding will delight you today. Take yourself a treat from the cozy bookstore of the downtown. Treat some moments just for yourself.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) What a wonderful day it is! Interactions with others, especially if going negotiating, liberal meetings, enthusiasm is caused while teaches. Enjoy the company of others.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Today is a continue of creativity are intertwined with your today. This is why you might be very inspired with your ideas. Express your design or layout or how something appears or works.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Travel for pleasure will be favored today! In addition, your appreciation of beauty is heightened. Visit galleries, performance buildings and beautiful places.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Home will be generous to you today, so why not keep your problem open? By accepting what they offer you allow them to practice generosity as well. Your relationship with others is enhanced.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Interactions with partners and close friends will be beautiful today. Make plans to entertain for lunch, coffee or after work. You might want to entertain at home.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Love matters are especially important today. Now is the time to make suggestions and to listen to the needs of others. Your relationship is enhanced.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Romance, romance, romance! Love and love is in general will answer you today. Forward social outlooks. Your ego is filled! Sports and playful times with children are also enlightening.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) This is a lovely day to entertain at home. Invite people over, including family members. They also will enjoy understanding or socializing over dogs. It's a good day to buy beautiful things for where you live.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) It's also a very happy today. You feel in touch with the world. Close conversations with siblings, neighbors and daily contacts. Share your good feelings with others.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

All the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and program at: www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

6	1	2	4	5	3	7	8	9
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5	6	4	8	2	7	1	9	3
8	7	1	6	3	5	4	2	9
9	2	6	5	4	1	6	3	7

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

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Difficulty Level ★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Short-tempered
5 Mineral compound
10 Ancient Egyptian sorcerer
14 Lacustrine
15 Fruits of the
16 Ring
17 Ship's
18 Cleaning
19 Cleaning
20 Unsupported
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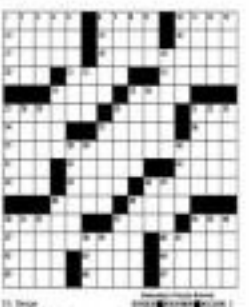

Cellist Wilfredo Pasamba performs with MSO at CCP June 4

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

THE MOST memorable thing about the piece you announcing the opening season concert of the Manila Symphony at the CCP main theater on June 4, 8 p.m., is the special members combined by soloist Wilfredo C. Pasamba.

Playing Rachmaninoff's Paraphrase is to make in Chicago he reassured violinmaker Gene Bricoli in 2000, Pasamba succumbed a wealth of sounds that were at once heartbreak and painfully rich and impressive as he went on. It did not matter that the pianist, Beth Pantaleone, did not match these keys; his tone dominated everything in the CCP Main Theater lobby.

The cello schools, and a Filipino finalist at the Tchaikovsky Competition will once again render Boccini's Cello Concerto No. 2 in D Minor with the Manila Symphony under the baton of Arturo Molina.

Pasamba just came from Moscow where he had an invitation from the Moscow Conservatory and where he studied some years back. It was the same school where pianist Ronnie Ancero made her mark in the 1980s and became the first Filipino laureate (11th place) of the Tchaikovsky Competition.

On top of practicing, the Filipino cellist also gave master classes at the Moscow Conservatory, which he found a very challenging and fulfilling experience.

"I taught and gave cello lessons, chamber music and orchestral studies repertoire. Russian student cellists are no doubt very serious music students, and they really excel in their instrument with their habit of daily long hours of practice."

How he managed to handle a class of Russian students for command up in one recital. One must have good communication skills in Russian language and, of course, proficiency in speaking.

Great places for music

Pasamba has performed three times in Moscow, the latest being at the Rachmaninoff Hall, where he did a program of Brahms, Debussy and Shostakovich cello sonatas. Earlier, he performed at the Rimsky-Korsakov Museum and at the Pushkin State Museum.

"Russian audiences are very appreciative, and many young people attend live classical performances," he says.

"Russia has always been a great place to study and make music. It has a very strong musical tradition with a strong outstanding soloists, chamber music groups and symphonic orchestras."

Hailed by the New York Times for his "versatility and brilliance," Pasamba had the advantage of being schooled in Moscow and New York and getting the best from both.

Says he: "The Russian school gave me a good technical and musical foundation and the importance of daily practice. The American school exposed me to musicianship and freedom for musical expression."

Pasamba's latest performances include guest solo appearances at the Heidelberg New Music Festival, performing the music of George Crumb, and at the Ozarks Music Festival in Missouri, a collaboration in the Amahl Scholarship Retrospective at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and a chamber music appearance with the Omaha Chamber Music Society, and guest solo recitals in San Francisco, Moscow and St. Petersburg.

He cites the advantages of being soloist and chamber musician at the same time: "Having chamber music helps me to be more sensitive to the sound of different instruments. It helps me create homogenous musical ideas and develop rapport with other musicians."

Pasamba has lately served as a faculty member at Pittsburg State University and at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory.

He likes to think that teaching and performing complement one another: "I think students would be more effective if they are also performing. Performing reveals technical and musical problems and demonstrating it by performance contributes to a better understanding and even mastery of the subject."

In the company of other good Filipino cellists like Ernesto Lucas and Nicko Michael Cua, Pasamba says he remains in good shape as a cellist by doing the basic things.

"I make it a point to practice every day, have a good sleep, a regular intake of healthy food, and of course, daily exercise."

His favorite cellists include Jean Piboq, Alexander Fiedler, Jean Gedeon Queyras and Bernal Muller Schiff.

He has played the Haydn II Major Cello Concerto a few times and to challenge remains the same to him.

"This is usually considered one of the most difficult and challenging pieces in the entire cello repertoire. It is also favorite of many cellists. I think the biggest challenge of this piece is that it needs to sound effortless and 'sing' its romantic."

After his CCP engagement, Pasamba and pianist Mary Anne Espino will grace the Bebe Kalaw's Intimate Concert Series on July 8.

The other artists in the series are pianist Oliver Jodoque on June 18, and baritone Andrew Fernando and Christopher Orozco on July 22.

Call 8866-3344/78 or 7484-1121.

WILFREDO Pasamba

The cello is back, and a Filipino unearths a wealth of sounds

Book on Pinatubo to be launched

ANGELES University (AU) will launch the book "Pinatubo: The Volcano in Our Backyard" as part of the province-wide celebration marking the 20th anniversary of the eruption of Mount Pinatubo.

The book, written by Bobby Tarrazas, director of the NAIA Center for Superstition Studies, will be launched on June 14, 5 p.m., at the Auditorium Lorenzo Hall, St. Joseph Building.

The program will be presented by a photo-art exhibit by Gay "Bebot" Alfiler and Bernardo Pineda and followed by a concert, both at UAU's Viola Gen Area.

The book recounts the events before, during and after the June 15, 1991, eruption, described as the world's second largest volcanic eruption in the 20th century. It also contains personal anecdotes of Kapampangans who survived both the eruption and the succeeding lahar devastation.

"What makes Pinatubo such a gripping story is the number of amazing coincidences that accompanied the eruption," Tarrazas said. "Pinatubo erupted in the very same year the Inner equivalent was set to expire. The first of the eruptions happened on Independence Day, and Pinatubo really set in for those 500 years of dependence on the United States."

"Another amazing coincidence is that explosion erased the region at the very heart of the Clarkette empire.

"Kapampangans aged 20 years and below don't know a memory of Pinatubo, which is why we intend to remind them of how the volcano changed our lives."

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Sapriet al. at Anna

"Family of Man" is signing ended which offers a tribute to Solomon Sapriet. It opens in Gallery Anna (#1, Bldg. A, 1M Magsaysay) on May 24. Participating artists are Sapriet, Edgar Doctor, Al Perez, Nemiranda, Henry Encarnacion, Eli Bolarmo, Ronny Gutierrez, Tim Raymundo, Rodell Gonzales, Julian Lloyd Martinez and Victor Wood. It will run until June 8.

"MUTTER ng BABAE," by Solomon Sapriet

Workshop at De las Islas

"Expressions," an view at Galeria de las Islas (2/F, Shaza Center, 144 Leon Loyzaga St., Wack-wack, Mandaluyong; tel. 4210172), will open June 3, exhibiting the best works of its 2011 Summer Art Workshop participants, ranging from still life to portraits and abstract watercolor compositions.

The workshop was conducted by artist Kim Jan Gealon.

Participating students are Elena Calos, Angela Louise Sandicos, Marinda Velez, Michael Lacerta, Miguel Alexis Bravo, Chloe Justin Tan, Bianca Denise Lagang and Gianluigi Dulce. Gallery hours are from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily including Sundays and holidays.

"BOYS wear Rubbers," by Donna Pamela Calos

Various artists at Manila Contemporary

Manila Contemporary, in collaboration with "So we ain't Managers recommends," "Monsterlab," until May 28, an exhibition that showcases the work of contemporary artists variously

VISUAL ARTS

"LOAD"/"HITS," by Antipas Delotavo

commissioned to make use of the expansive gallery space to create contemporary works of epic proportions, taking a platform to the deft bombast to the bundling of large surfaces and complex conceptual ploy. Tito Mike Aviles, Phil Bolipata, Elmer Borlongan, Antipas Delotavo, Wilfredo Paquito Jr., Mark Justiniano, Jay Motin, Farida Shondevanya, Rissa Muñoz and Jose Santos III present spectacular new work in the gallery. Their visual stories showcase diverse approaches that incorporate the poetic, comic, tragic and spiritual aspects of Filipino culture to forgive and provoke viewers, regarding their social responsibilities as well as, by gaining a visual delight in the monumental. Social narration of artworks in progress in the artists' studios by MMP Vault will be exhibited concurrently in the Auction Gallery of Manila Contemporary. Manila Contemporary is on One Climo Roxas Ave. Extension (beside Fleming Tent) in Brgy. Magallanes, Makati City.

Boquiren, Nemiranda, Doctor et al. at Anna

Valerie Anna presents "Staircase with the Raiders: A Long Way to Descend," featuring works by Hernando de Jesus Gutierrez, Edgar Doctor, Al Perez, Ali de la Cruz, Ronny Boquiren, Rodell Gonzales, and Victor Wood. The show opens May 24, 6 p.m., and runs until June 8 at Galeria Anna, Artwalk, 4/F, Bldg. A, 1M Magsaysay, Mandaluyong. Call 6702011 or 4729868, e-mail galeria_anna@yahoo.com, visit www.galeriaanna.com.

"FLOWERS of My Heart," by Ronny Boquiren

"Enchantment of Affinities, videos by Krisztián Ardelits is ongoing until Aug. 17 in the South Wing Gallery of The Ateneo Museum (Rizal Avenue, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City; tel. 9251601, http://ateneomuseum.ph and edu.ph). Ardelits is a Filipino artist-media artist based in Spain. The videos converse with the mid-19th century book (1858) from the Vargas Library and Architect Alfred Mitchener de Haymer by the novelist Antonio del Castillo. The exhibition showcases the link, "in the concrete (in computer-screens 'phantasm of randomness')," from Jose Rizal's novel, "Noli Me Tangere." Rizal used this phrase to recall a discrepancy between an ancient's vitality and the lifelessness of the colony. This "spelled the beginning of disharmony and the promise of affinity".

BY KRISTOFFER Antonio

Oshima at Silverlens

"Wet" by Neal Oshima opens June 1, 6-9 p.m. at Silverlens Gallery.

Having traveled and lived in the Philippines for years, Oshima focused his lens on familiar subjects and scenes that surrounded the way people live. His photos have motivated many to address the problems that largely affect us. This month he delves a spotlight on water, beautiful and undeniably essential to everyone.

"Positive 2011" opens on June 1, 6-9 p.m. at Silverlens Gallery, presenting paintings by Santee Garney, Poe Mallawa and Lloyd Pena. Isa Lorenzo curates.

BY NEIL Oshima

LIFESTYLE

30 Years of Magic
Three decades of good times and great taste

McDonald's Moments for the Filipino Family

At the heart of the McDonald's brand is its love for families and kids. Throughout its three decades in the Philippines, McDonald's has become a place where families get together, creating precious memories passed on from generation to generation. More than great-tasting, quality food products and innovative service, McDonald's brings happiness to children, families, even to the child at heart – from family bonding times shared over a McDonald's Happy Meal, fun and memorable Birthday Party celebrations, exciting summer adventures with the Kiddie Crew Workshop to simple everyday family dining moments at McDonald's.

The Happiest Meal in McDonald's

Happy family meal time

McDonald's offered its very first Happy Meal over thirty years ago in 1979 in St. Louis, Missouri, wanting to make every family visit more enjoyable by giving a tasty meal a burst of fun by combining it with a toy. This innovative concept of pairing up his with food resonated hearty with McDonald's young customers and their parents all over the world. Since then, families have spent more happy times with their children in more than 32,000 McDonald's restaurants worldwide.

The McDonald's Happy Meal comes with favorite food choices and a beverage, but has been made more special in different parts of the world with food offers that fit the unique tastes and culture in every country. When the Happy Meal landed in the Philippines in 1997, Filipino children were delighted to have their McNuggets or the uniquely Pinoy Burger Mcdo, McSpaghetti or Chicken Mcdo with a fun toy.

Helping kids learn the value of giving

While special moments happen every time a child has a Happy Meal, it also fosters an important value of sharing or kids helping other kids. With every purchase of a Happy Meal, 50 centavos is automatically donated to the Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC), Mc-Donald's charity of choice. With the thousands of Happy Meals sold every day in the country, more help is given to make a difference in the lives of children in need.

Since RMHC was established in the country in 1995, it has continually strived to make a difference through flagship programs that advocate child survival and sound education.

Ralph Tibesh Road (RMR) a RMHC flagship program in partnership with the Department of Education (DepEd), reaching beginning reading to Grade 1 public school students by providing classroom and reading toolkits. To date, RMR is in over 2,700 public elementary schools across 17 regions including ARMM.

Bahay Bubble on the other hand is in partnership with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and local government units. Tapos, ey, they can w/build low cost day care centers for children aged 2-5 years old where they are taught basic skills in preparation for formal schooling. There are Bahay Bubble day care centers serving different communities in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

The fun times and opportunity to make a difference by helping other kids in need that allowed the McDonald's Happy Meal to land a special place in the hearts of people young and old across the country and the world for more promotions to come.

The Magic of Ronald McDonald

Everybody knows who Ronald McDonald is, but there is much more to that wide smile and big red shoes. Here are some trivia about the world's most famous red head:

Where in the World is Ronald?

Ronald is the Chief Happiness Officer of McDonald's, acting as the goodwill ambassador, bringing fun and happiness to children of all ages.

Ronald and the Gang live in a magical place called McDonaldland where apple pie trees grow and where kids can play in the French fry Shoe Land Hamburger Patch.

Ronald has visited at over 100 countries and owns having a special place in his heart in China, he is called "McDonald Hao Hao Lou Yah Bah" which means "Uncle McDonald".

Ronald's Favorite things

Ronald loves to read, and he wants to share this love for reading with the kids all over the Philippines through McDonald's Book Fair Sharing. Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Ronald's favorite activity in McDonald's is birthday parties.

Ronald's favorite food is everything in McDonald's, but his absolute favorites are the Big Mac, McNuggets, World Famous Fries, and the Egg McMuffin.

The Big Red Shoes

Ronald loves his big red shoes, and wears a BIGGG... more long, by extra wide, by extra red.

Ronald drives a clown car (he looks like his big red shoes, and is big enough to fit in all his friends.

Creating exciting moments with McDonald's Birthday Parties

A burst of fun with every celebration

No one can deny the joy and excitement that comes with every birthday. Whether it's a child's first, seventh or twenty-first, another year spent with family and friends is definitely more than enough reason to celebrate—and an ever appreciative to values that mean this Filipino family. Over the years, McDonald's has become a special place where family and friends get to celebrate birthday parties, with bright-eyed children looking forward to have everyone together, play fun games, and eat their favorite chicken nuggets.

Committed to making a child's special day fun and truly memorable, McDonald's has put together different birthday party themes that kids of all ages can choose from with popular characters they know and love. Where else can your little girl spend their special day feeling like royalty with Disney Princesses or have your little boy experience the adventures of Toy Story? Babies and toddlers are sure to flash their adorable smiles when surrounded by the cute and lovable characters from the Mickey Mouse Clubhouse while kids who can't get enough of McDonald's will have a blast partying with Ronald and the Gang.

Fun for kids, easy for parents

There agree, with all the things that need to happen all at the same time, parents often feel drained about throwing a birthday party. To keep them worry-free, McDonald's has taken on the task by offering complete birthday packages to suit any requirements, making the preparation easy as pie, without having to drop big down any parents pockets.

Every McDonald's Birthday Party package allows parents to breathe a huge sigh of relief as it covers everything from venue, with invitations and decorations, to food, with grownups and game prizes. Every package also includes a special gift for the celebrant, thank you cards, party hats and assorted loot, activity booklets, and a matching balloon.

Truly, a McDonald's party is one that both parents and children can share a moment that is fun, full of love and laughter, and yet that ensures you stay and the best and most memorable part of it all is how family and friends feel closer together, long after the balloons and party hats are packed up.

Gearing Up for a Happy McDonald's Summer

First summer program of its kind in the country

When the summer season arrives, children celebrate the much awaited break they have been looking forward to throughout the school year. However this doesn't have to mean lazy, lazy months of nothing but play. McDonald's has come up with the perfect way to keep children busy and productive all while having fun through the Kiddie Crew Workshop - the first summer program of its kind in the country. The McDonald's Kiddie Crew Workshop is a 5-day program specifically designed for kids aged 9-12 years old.

During each workshop day, Kiddie Crew members get to experience the fun of greeting guests, helping out in the restaurant and dress their creativity through art, floor tracings, and showcase their skills through creative art workshops. Throughout these activities, kids get to learn the important values of hard work, teamwork, and discipline. It has also become a great way for kids to meet and make a lot of new friends.

And because summer is more fun when spent with the whole family, McDonald's brings everyone together during the grand graduations held in major cities all over the country. Laguna, Cebu, Davao and Manila - at the end of the workshop, McDonald's celebrates the achievements of all Kiddie Crew members and treat their 5-day filled with exciting booths, games and a ton of prizes in the company of their supportive families and, of course, new found friends.

Over 23,000 Kiddie Crew Graduates this year

With a record breaking 23,000 kids participating this year from all over the country, the workshop has become an annual tradition that marks the fun adventure kids experience inside their favorite McDonald's restaurant every summer.

Meet Ronald and the Gang

It is hard to miss the all-too-familiar big red shoes, red hair, and the bright yellow jumpsuit worn by one of the most recognizable faces in the world. With over 300 stores in the country and thousands more around the globe, the welcoming smile of the famous and well-loved character has indeed captured the imagination of generations - Ronald McDonald.

Ronald McDonald, a worldwide icon of fun

A celebrity in his own right and a ubiquitous icon in pop culture, Ronald McDonald started out in 1963 as the official spokesperson for McDonald's in Washington, D.C., played by the legendary Willard Scott, well-known for making a mark in American children's celebration. Ronald's first appearance in the New York City Macy's Thanksgiving parade back in 1966 allowed Ronald to shoot from being a local restaurant fixture to various commercials and appearances to shoulder-to-shoulder, and has since then become a household name. Sharing the limelight with Ronald are his equally charming friends that make up the fun group that calls McDonald's home - Grimace, Hamburglar, and Birdie.

The happy bunch at McDonald's

Grimace is Ronald's best friend. The big, furry, purple guy appears colorful-ready for the young ones, and personifies the yummy sweetness that comes with all the McDonald's desserts - shakes, sweets, and sundaes.

Then there's Hamburglar, the happy pendulum of the group known for his tomfoolery. He shares his love for a McDonald's Hamburger with the kids every time he gets his hands on his favorite treats, which he usually collects from the stars. Finally, Birdie, the Early Bird, is the only girl in the group, but it never stops her from being in the thick of things. She is always early to rise, and the first thing she does is head to McDonald's for a good and hearty breakfast of Egg McMuffin or Sausage McMuffin, and maybe even a hashbrown.

Ronald and the Gang bring up the level of fun at McDonald's with their endearing personalities and all-around cool attitude. People all over the world have grown up knowing these characters, and the new generation of little girls and boys continue to look forward to crossing and greeting up to them there, in every part of the world. Ronald, Grimace, Hamburglar, and Birdie are sure to be there to celebrate every occasion and special moment spent at McDonald's.

Collecting Happiness with every Meal

For millions of people around the world, collecting Happy Meal toys is more than just a hobby - it is a way to keep precious childhood memories, and a means to pass them on to a new generation. Here are some of the little-ful and avid collectors who remain to be thrilled with every new set of McDonald's Happy Meal Collectibles!

Name: Rachel Sioson Sapchiangco
Occupation: Work-at-Home Mom
Collectibles: Beanie Babies, Hello Kitty jewelry box, Kung Fu Panda 1 & 2, Sesame Street bobble heads and vehicles, Pokemon, Shrinkys

The Happy Meal Experience: I started collecting when I was in high school. I gave away some of my collections to my nephews and sisters but kept my favorite ones. My husband, who was still my boyfriend at that time helped me collect the different Hello Kitty and Coca Cola-themed toys. When I became a mom, I continued enjoying collecting all sorts of Happy Meal toys with my son, Ethan. Collecting Happy Meal toys makes me happy and makes me feel young, too. There's always eager to collect a whole set of toys because there's a sense of joy and fulfillment each time I complete a set.

Name: Dessi Lihaligan
Occupation: Product Designer
Collectibles: 25 Years of Hello Kitty

The Happy Meal Experience: I started collecting Happy Meal toys when I was in high school, and I tried to get one Hello Kitty toy per branch. Sorry I bought myself. Others came from friends as far as Baguio & Batangas. I even asked some to give Ethan in my as a birthday gift.

A Golden Age of writing

By Ian Rosales Casocot
Contributor

With 600 alumni, the Silliman University National Writers Workshop in Dumaguete City "occupies a premier position in the history of creative writing in the Philippines'

WE BEGIN with stories of how things began.

The story of the Silliman University National Writers Workshop in Dumaguete—admittedly, drama to 50th year this May—officially began in 1960.

That was the year it was founded by the late Edilberto K. Tiempo and his wife, National Artist for Literature Edith L. Tiempo. They became simply Doc Ed and Mom Edith to several generations of Filipino writers, a sort of Cinderella story that says a lot about the kind of workshop Dumaguete provided.

Its influence is seen by cadres. The poet Cirilo Bautista once said: "The genesis of learning these words on got from this workshop is incalculable, and measurable only in the way they have contributed to the qualitative and quantitative growth of our literature. Being a pioneer, it occupies a privileged position in the history of creative writing in the Philippines."

The Tiempos, together with its first panelists, National Artists Francisco Arcellana and Nick Joaquin, ushered in a Golden Age of writing, and Dumaguete in Negros Oriental has somehow become the heart of the country's frontline—everyone's literary hometown.

But perhaps its true genesis goes even farther back, to the end of World War II.

"In 1946," Rowena Tiempo-Gonzalez once wrote, "my father was offered a scholarship by the Presbyterian Board of Missions, enabling him to do graduate work in the United States, at Stanford. He was readying himself for the school's registers of the classics, and doing a refresher course in Latin, among his preparations, when my father was asked what area he wanted to specialize in at Stanford. Creative writing," he said. "There are a number of novels I am going to write, and I need to know if I'm writing them effectively and well."

1974 workshop

News

"Eh, the Presbyterian Board officer told him, "There there's only one place for you to go, Iowa." Dad had to look up Iowa in the encyclopedia, and he was a bit puzzled at what he read. 'Isn't that where... they grow corn?'"

Iowa, right smack in the cornfields and silos of the American Midwest, indeed, grew corn. But Doc Ed was soon to learn there was a market there, a poet named Paul Engle was holding the Writers' Workshop."

By 1947, his wife Edith joined her husband to also take part in the program. When they returned to the Philippines in 1951, Silliman was already abuzz with creative writing.

The campus was spreading

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EDILBERTO and EDITH Tiempo

Iconic cultmasters, among them Arlo Rivera Ford, Rodrigo and Dalmore Perez, and Ricardo Demetillo.

The Tiempos made creative writing an area of concentration for English majors in the English Department... and soon that paved the way to programmes in 1964 to hold a workshop similar in the one they attended in Iowa. The following year, it became fully operational.

The years to come would bring literary luminaries often at the very beginning of their writing careers, people such as Gregorio Brillantes, Rogelio Ross, Reynaldo Roces, Elsie Martinez Coscolluela, Soledad Lava Espino, Salvador Bernal, Rene Hawilla Amper, Virgilio Almario, Rocky Lee, Gemenda de Quiros, Leonicio Deocaña, Estrella Alfon, Eric Gamalinda, Marjorie Evasco, Erasmus Tampus, Alunan Glang-en-Ed, Ismael C. De Pera, Miguel Syjuco, Leonel Rivera de Veyra, Lakambini Sitoy, Jaime Lacuesta, Dean Alfar, Nerv Saldivar, Angelo Suarez, Adam David.

Today, the workshop's alumni number above 600. Their numbers of those words in a Dictionary-sized tome is incredible.

Timothy Montes writes: "It was a common story we told: Meeting Doc Ed was a turning point in life. I remember him, the first time I joined the workshop, raising my hands and saying, 'You can write.' And I began to write seriously."

First workshop

The poet Cesar Ruiz Aquino tells the story of being the first workshopper: "We were a very young college boy when we came to Dumaguete for the first time in the summer of 1961... It was a letter from a man named Dr. Edilberto Tiempo that brought it about. The letter was an invitation to join the 1962 workshop in April... We accepted, of course, full of madness and innocence... He met us at the wharf, aboard a motorcade... It was just after dawn. We can't recall certain details. For instance, we can't recall how we knew it was him or how he knew it was us. We rode the tartanilla to town, to the English Department at Silliman, to the Alumni Hall where the workshoppers would be housed, then to the cafeteria for breakfast.

"Time quiet the town was, how still. Even then it felt like memory Time, a full, primeval river, moved in eddies... It was the morning of creation, and the dawn seemed to cling to everything. In the evening, across from our window, played Mr. Dancer on the jukebox singing, incredibly, "Border in the Night." And in the morning of the next day, we met the next-to-come, Willy Sanchez, who looked at us with contempt and, to no one, we began cursing through the campus. Kaiser jammed the cells, crossed the headgasts, seems Enes under a typewriter, behind and inadvertent. Willy pulled out, we marched. Nick Joaquin exclaimed at the cat: 'Pusta. I think they're serious!'"

This year, we add 15 more writers to the august list: Charmaine Carmona, Evangeline Gobar, Jeffrey Javier, Allen Summers, Alyza Tagalbon, Eileen Tiba, Christine Lao, Emmanuel Lava, Andrea Montalbo, Marisa Monsanto, Phillipe Rompay, Rogelio Garcia Jr., Miguel Syjuco, Elmira Tejada and Maria Villaluz.

This year's panel of critics is composed of director-candidate Nemesio "Bomps" Barrera Jr. and Dumaguete-based writers Myrna Peña Reyes, Bobby Villasis and Cesar Ruiz Aquino, as well as guest panelists Susan Lara, DM Reyes, Ilyn Gonzalez, Ricky de Ungria, Gemino Abad and Alfred Yuson.

For this summer, unconventionally anchored Singaporean writer Kirpal Singh will also be sharing his wit in the panel.

The 54th Silliman University National Writers Workshop, scheduled May 2-20, is sponsored by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and Silliman University, coordinated by its Department of English and Literature.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Ernesto S. Velarde

'Oprah' finale scores highest audience ever

NEW YORK—Preliminary figures show last week's finale of "The Oprah Winfrey Show" scored its highest audience in 17 years. The Nielsen Co. said Thursday that the final episode delivered a 13.3 household rating in the nation's metered markets. Metered market ratings measure roughly half the nation and can't be translated into audience figures. AP

FRANCISCO "Eboy" Bautista is one of 12 contestants undergoing a 22-week weight-loss program in the show.

Sneak peek inside 'Biggest Loser' camp

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

GENERAL Trias, Cavite—Andy Santiago, production manager of ABS-CBN's reality show "The Biggest Loser Pinoy Edition," said contestants are staying in a "camp" that is spread up like a five-star hotel.

The "fitness and wellness" camp is located inside a golf club in this Southern Tagalog province.

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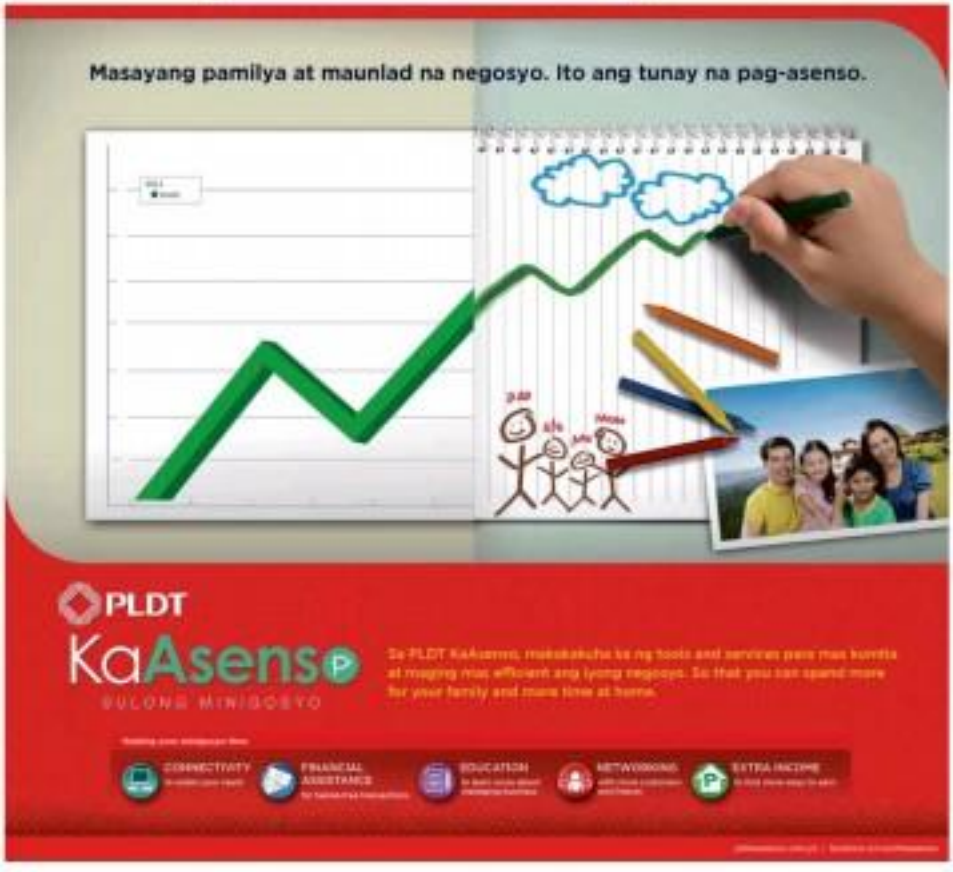

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Ryan Bang
Jane & Ayne
Robinsons Angeles

Sneak . . .

From page 01

"We want the contestants to feel comfortable," Santiago explained.

After all, the 12 participants are current, b tanding physical, mental and emotional upheavals as they try to shed weight.

Taping a segment, filmed in Shore Excursion, with Derek Ramsay as referee, the dos wrestlers fought.

Santiago said that the contestants will undergo a 22-week weight-loss program.

The heaviest contestant, Jr. revealed, weighed in at 410 pounds.

The little one, of course, lying into. The camp was devastated by Jesse Sheldon and Ate Intellanova.

Apart from the do-not furnishings by Pi ovisk, the participants can avail of Dalvado exercise equipment provided by Fitness First.

They are being trained by sports-nutrition specialist Jim Saso and Ambrosio Glanggayo, spokesman.

Pro Dem dietary consultant, Madam Tropicana on board to help them, too.

CHALLENGE Ricard Chua and Jesse "JR" Davis: All contestants are hoping to a gold stitch but has been spitted up like a 5-star hotel.

The contestants have psychologist Sonny Belleza as resident psychiatrist.

In a previous interview, Belleza said that the show would be "interesting and educational" for viewers because it will tackle the "emotional and psychological" reasons behind overeating.

Santiago added that some contestants "eat 40 cups or 1 kilo of rice a day."

"They eat when stressed. One contestant is separated and has relationship problems. Another one survived the murder of family members," Santiago related.

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Oceanview Cabin $ 980/cabin
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SAILING DATE: JULY 30, 2011
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Oceanview Cabin $670/person
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Milk Quality and Early Nutrition Programming

Health consciousness has redefined food choices and consumption all over the world. We have seen "zero" this or that and an obsession of what we take – calculating the calories or controlling the amount of what we eat. "It's do this because we want to stay healthier – longer."

While it's common knowledge that our living practices and eating habits today has an impact on long-term health conditions, there's also increasing scientific interest in the areas of "early programming."

What is Early Programming?

Early nutrition programming indicates that differences in nutritional experiences in the womb or in early life – both pre- and post-natally, can programme a person's development, metabolism and health for the future. The implications of early nutrition programming are huge – differences in risk factors for cardiovascular disease, diabetes and obesity, in immune function and allergy risk, in bone health, and in cognitive, neuro-motor and behavioural outcomes have all been seen in children. The potential for improving the health of future generations is enormous.

Importance of Calcium throughout Childhood

Calcium, a mineral found in many foods, helps the body build strong bones. If you don't get enough calcium for a child, your bones will not become strong enough to support you later. This can cause osteoporosis later in life. To build strong bones, children need plenty of calcium for their growing bodies. According to the National Academy of Sciences, children need up to 500 mgs of calcium per day, children ages 4-8 need 800 mgs per day, children 9-18 need 1,300 mgs of calcium per day to build their growing bones.

Outcome of Palm Oil on Calcium Absorption in Child's Milk

Milk is rich in calcium, which is essential for bone growth and development. Milk is also a source of protein, vitamin A, vitamin B12, riboflavin, phosphorus, magnesium, and potassium. Milk is a key source of calcium for growing children and they need to take enough of it (500mg per day for children aged 4-8 years). Among milk products, cheese and yogurt are also good sources of calcium.

Studies have shown that Milk enriched Palm Oil has been proven to support better calcium absorption.

Calcium Deficiency among Children in the Philippines

Results of the 7th National Nutrition Survey (NNS) as published in April 2011 – the stunts that children six to 12 years old have the lowest consumption of calcium with an average of 280 mg per day (or 400mg per day target).

Dr. Rodolfo Florendo, chairman and President of the Philippine Foundation of the Philippines (NFPI), pointed out that milk intake, as an excellent source of dietary calcium, was poor except in stunts. Calcium intake can be increased through increased consumption of fish and milk in the diet, as well as promoting thought sources of calcium.

Promotion of adequate calcium intake throughout the lifespan is strongly encouraged to meet the recommended dietary intake by experts after six months.

In Summary, early nutrition programming indicates that the quality of nutrition taken from infancy through childhood has profound long-term impacts on the physical health, strength, and brain development of the child. Milk is a key source of calcium for growing children and they need to take enough of it (500mg per day for children aged 4-8 years). Among milk products, cheese and yogurt are also good sources of calcium. Studies have shown that Milk enriched Palm Oil has been proven to support better calcium absorption.

by Abbott does not use Palm Oil

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One for the books

THE SCRIPTURES weird and wacky world of show business occasionally throws us for a loop with an unexpected topic that reminds us how strange and even bizarre the relationship between celebrities and their avid supporters can be.

It has for actor Jake Cuenca who, last week, had to rush to the Manny Aquino International Airport to placate an aging fan who had flown in from the provinces to meet up with him. It's preferred meeting, he said the fan, was in a romantic candlelighting, as if we were for her to leave her family and fly to him to claim her unwavering destiny.

How he had the cojones to the absolutely certain conclusion that Jake had pledged his troth to her despite the great differences in their ages? She said he had "look" to her, and had also texted and texted her via the romantic dialogue that he so audibly missed in the love scenes of his teleseryes.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor C. Torre

Make-believe

From this the man told that these "letters" or texts were not at all substituting fun, and that the television dialogue was all make-believe, the poor introverted soul still refused to return to her usual life and relationships.

People smile and even laugh at the latest display of benign fan-love but these fans in full of other stories that are less cute and funny.

For instance, when actress-slash-singer Rochell Yabut-Guevara and Elvis Presley died, some of their female fans proved so much that they too ended up giving up the ghost, just so they could tell us with their relayed screen lesions in the afterlife.

Violent act

Or, take actress Julie Ann Tiaoo. There she was, quietly attending to her career and college studies, when a demented fan, Arlan Hinchliffe Jr., the CEO of Global Bangus—and "offered" his client services to his other to his most talented and beloved movie star—Julie Anne!

Lessons

Are these lessons to be learned from these extreme instances of fanatical devotion?

First, get a life. Don't believe the fantasy of stars' performances that make them so personally empathetic and accessible to you. They are the performers, you are the audience, and that great divide is there not just for esthetic reasons—it's for a reason. Things should be, and how they should remain.

So, the only thing stars can then [illegible] is a good performance, period. Report or give more than that, and you're setting the stage for cruelty and heart-to-tongue, selfish and otherwise attitude into each other's spheres, which should be agreeably separated, to keep all those beauty illusions necessary to keep

ENTERTAINMENT

After 'Mara,' young star wants to be 'contravida'

By Krystel Sue Diego Jr.

WHEN ABS-CBN's 2010 remake of "Share Close" airs its finale on June 3, the drama series' 23-year-old lead actress Kathryn Bernardo is looking forward to more projects.

A movie with Star Cinema is in the works and a new youth show is also in the offing.

She's working with the show's "Clara," Julia Montes, in both projects. The two are on the cusp of stardom and are featured on the covers of glossies like Yes! Inside and Chalk this month.

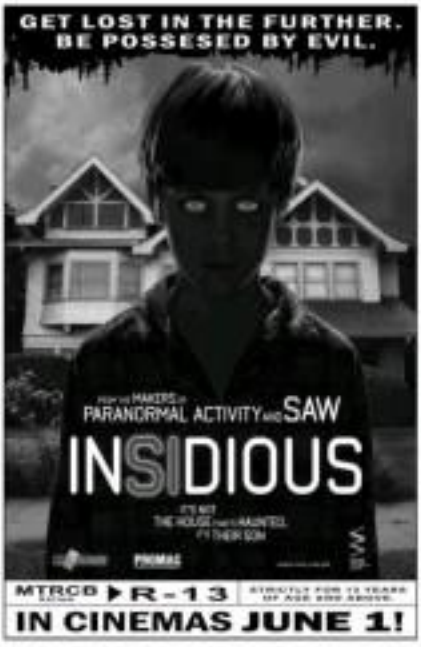
This early, there is also talk that Kathryn is being groomed for the remake of another soap opera, "Esperanza."

"It [the role] would be great to me. I'd be very thankful. But as of now, there's no word yet from the network," said Kathryn.

If she could leave her soap thought, she'd rather play a contravida.

"I want to prove that there is more to me than just the sweet maraya," she asserted.

She leaned something valuable when she first met Judy Ann Santos, SEE P. 62



After 'Mara,' young star wants to be 'contravida'

Front page 61

who originally played Mara in the long-running telenovela which aired from 1992 till 1997.

"Ate Juday told me not to indicate her. That I should attack the Mara role my own way," Kathryn recalled.

She got to watch "Mara Clara's" movie version on Cinema One. "I also got to work with the Judays in 'Reynalds,'" she related. "She used to call me Bulinggit (little star). She said she was happy that I got the part."

She considers Judy Ann her "idol and inspiration."

Her advisers love the original Mara Isabella her career. "I also want to be a positive role model on and off camera," she said.

She intends to do this by "interacting with and with the fans," she said. "I was in third year high school when I joined Mara Clara. It was hard, but I insisted on attending regular school."

For her entire year in June, though, she might be studying in a home-school program.

She's aware of the influence that celebrities have on other young people, she said. One is point. Its 11-year-old fan named Pamela Andrea del Rosario cried after Kathryn's character was "killed" in the soap.

"I met her on Skype," Kathryn recounted. "She was so happy to see me. Her crying eyes. [She did somersaults.] She sang and played the guitar for me."

Recently, Kathryn had the chance to become a fan herself when she watched Justin Bieber's concert in Manila.

She doesn't think shows like "Mara" and the "love scars" syndrome push women to get entangled in "romantic fantasy" too early. "We want young fans to relate with the story ... We are only showing a normal stage in a young person's life like being inspired by a crush."

E-mail: bayanlovelagan@hotmail.com

Happy birthday!

TODAY: Cultivist Leony Davidson of The Dave Clark Five is 67. Country singer Wynonna Judd is 47. Guitarist Tom Morello of Audioslave and Rage Against the Machine is 47. Guitarist Mondo Rabbitmoore of Live is 40. Singer Cee-Lo of Gnarls Barkley (and Gnarls Mobi) is 37. Rapper Remy Ma is 31. Guitarist James Smith of Cinerchords is 29.

Tomorrow: Actor-director Clint Eastwood is 81. Singer Peter Yarrow of Peter, Paul and Mary is 73. Actor Tom Berenger is 61. Singer Corey Hart is 49. Rapper DMC of Run DMC is 47. Actress Rhoda Rhoda is 46. Actress Archie Panjabi ("The Good Wife") is 38. Actor Colin Farrell is 35. Trumpeter-singer Scott Hopkinsnics of Bad Big Fish is 54. Drummer Andy Hurley of Fall Out Boy is 33. AP

POWER PLANT CINEMA

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES - 3D 1:15, 4:45, 8:15, 11:45 pm	KUNG FU PANDA 2 - 2D 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:40, 8:30, 10:25	KUNG FU PANDA 2 - 3D 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES - KUNG FU PANDA 2 - DIGITAL 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:45, 10:10, 12:00	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES - 2D in 3D 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00 pm	KUNG FU PANDA 2 - 3D 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00

HOUSE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

1 KUNG FU PANDA 2 - DIGITAL 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00 pm	2 KUNG FU PANDA 2 - 3D 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00 pm	3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES - 3D 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00 pm
4 DYLAN DOG - DIGITAL 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00 pm	6 KUNG FU PANDA 2 - 3D 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00 pm	
5 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES - DIGITAL 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00 pm	7 KUNG FU PANDA 2 - DIGITAL 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00 pm	

CINEMA 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 LOCATED ON 4TH FLOOR EASTWOOD PLAZA MALL
CINEMA 6 & 7 LOCATED ON 5TH FLOOR EASTWOOD PLAZA MALL

Ayala Malls Cinemas

MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4
1: PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES (3D)
2: PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES
3: KUNG FU PANDA 2 (3D)
4: FAST FIVE
5: IN THE NAME OF LOVE
6: KUNG FU PANDA 2
7: DYLAN DOG

GREENBELT 1
1: PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES
2: KUNG FU PANDA 2

GREENBELT 2
1: PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES
2: KUNG FU PANDA 2
3: FAST FIVE
4: PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES
5: KUNG FU PANDA 2

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1: KUNG FU PANDA 2
2: KUNG FU PANDA 2 (3D)
3: PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES (3D)
4: FAST FIVE
5: PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES

AYALA CENTER CEBU
1: KUNG FU PANDA 2
2: PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES
3: KUNG FU PANDA 2
4: FAST FIVE

MARQUEE
1: KUNG FU PANDA 2
2: KUNG FU PANDA 2 (3D)
3: ARTHUR
4: PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES

MARKET! MARKET!
1: KUNG FU PANDA 2
2: DYLAN DOG
3: PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES (3D)
4: PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES
5: KUNG FU PANDA 2
6: RESERVED
7: IN THE NAME OF LOVE

TRINOMA
1: DYLAN DOG
2: IN THE NAME OF LOVE
3: PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES (3D)
4: KUNG FU PANDA 2 (3D)
5: FAST FIVE
6: PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES
7: KUNG FU PANDA 2

ARBREZA
1: KUNG FU PANDA 2
2: KUNG FU PANDA 2
3: PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES
4: HANU PRIDE

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May 26 to 31, Greenbelt 3 Ground Floor

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TRINOMA
Mega Sparks Food Fest
May 26-31, Activity Center

MARQUEE
Kids' Wardrobe Makeover Mania
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9:00 am - 1 pm in 3

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24 Oras
Captain Barbell
Amaya
Maalaala Mo Kaya
Secret Garden
Survivor Philippines
Telebabad

EPIC BEAUTY

Jackie Rice

Sisid

Sa kanyang ganda, labas nahihiyan.
Sa kanyang pilay, parang ang mamamatay.

Ngayong hapon sa
Dyosmatama

Bhasang Bim
Nita Negrita
Sisid
Playful Kiss
Magic Palayok

EPIC SWEETNESS

Jang Ye Min and
Kim Hyun Joong

KISS

Sa komiks, telebisyon at internet...
sulyap-sulyap ang pinakilig!
Mahikbinat na ang halik
sa walang kasintamis!

3 EPIC PREMIERES FROM THE HOME OF
GROUNDBREAKING ENTERTAINMENT

GMA

Jen still hurting from split-up

NEWPORT CINEMAS
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 4 9:45, 6:15, 7:15, 10:15
KUNG FU PANDA 2 in 3D 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15, 10:15
KUNG FU PANDA 2 11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:25, 10:45
KUNG FU PANDA 2 12:05, 2:05, 5:15, 7:25, 9:45, 11:45

SHANG CINEPLEX
1) KUNG FU PANDA 2 (3D)
2) PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 4
3) KUNG FU PANDA 2
4) PRINCESS OF THE CARIBBEAN 4
ZYLAN (3D)
Shang's La Plaza

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

WHAT'S the real score between Jinkee Pacquiao and Luis Manzano? They were spotted together recently at Miriam's concert.

"We hung out a lot. Just because we are dating doesn't mean we're a couple," Ara clarifies. "I don't know why some people are misunderstanding me on this issue."

She insists that she's not ready yet to enter into another relationship. "To narrate also supernatural. I'm still in the healing process after my split up with Jaymie (Tello). Luis makes me laugh a lot and that's a big help for my wounds to heal."

Has she met Luis' mom, Ate Vi? "Yup, I met her on Luis' birthday," says Ara. "She is so much nga ako (Napakabait) sobrang mag-isa."

What lessons has she learned from her previous relationships? "Dapat magtiwala pero in control," she muses. "At least ever na-experience ko ang isang lalaki (kasi) nagbago lang ako."

If and when Ara and Luis fall for each other, hopefully both of them will apply all the love lessons they've learned, so it won't be just a repeat watch the same happily-ever-after ending.

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Edu, Pinky together again

Like Gilbo, like son. If Luis is smitten by Ara's charms, his dad Edu has swooned his ex-wife **Pinky Pedro**. They were spotted shopping at Shangri-La Plaza recently.

But did they really split up at all? Was there a breakup during election time when Edu ran for Vice President all for show, since his candidacy and her being a newscaster would have caused a conflict of interest? So it's Take Two for the hit romance tale that is as much of a "Paalam Z."

Diana calls GB 'Daddy'

Birthday boy director LB Sampedro is the guy inspired. What better birthday gift would he get than a brand new inspiration in Diana Meneses? Lately, Diana posted a picture of them on Instagram with the caption, "Thanks for (such) ingenue, Daddy. You cook so well."

I could almost hear them hearts burping!

Swelling tummy

Sisters-in-law **Denise Anne Pingris** and **Kristine Hermosa Sotto** are both preggy. Denise is 5 months in her child while Tin is 3 months into her own pregnancy.

Denise could not stop showing off being a baby girl this time. "Dapat maamoin na sya ko," she says. "He's so big na. I told Tin to read books about pregnancy. She has to learn a lot since it's her first time."

Adds Denise: "Mom (**Gina Romero**) and Dad (**Vic Sotto**) are happy about both pregnancies naman sa Tin. Kahit magkaroon kami ng lots of kiting kids on the (Sotto) side, one girl and two more coming soon."

Swelling tummy, completed na nilang!

Sunuya's premieres tonight

GMA 7 premieres "Sunuya" tonight on the Kapuso Network's Telebabad block, as "tapestry" starring **Marian Rivera** takes a twist and a turn in the story.

Sid Lucero plays Regasi, Sunuya's dashing warrior lover, and lucky-haired actor **Mikael Daez** portrays Lamael, Sunuya's symbiotic who fails in love with her.

The pioneering historical epic is set in Central Visayas in the 1600s during the reign of Rajah Mangubat, an undefeated warrior until a village princess foretells that their will come a day when a woman will depose him.

Marian is a mother in real life so portraying Sunuya would be second nature to her.

Jackie Rice as pearl diver

Archie Rice graces GMA 7's afternoon block in the drama "Hiraf" (premieres today after "Hiya Hugot" on Dominicans of Hispanic Kinky Asian descent.

Jackie plays Gilda, the only pearl diver in the island. She took up extensive diving lessons and acting workshops to prepare for the series. Her three leading men are Dominic Roco as Sigfried (Gilda's true love), JC Tiuseco as Ahmed (her childhood friend who secretly desires her) and Ian Ruthverven as Dwane (Sigfried's best friend who will also fall for her).

For feedback, e-mail sunuyaglobalnet@gmail.com

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LEARNING
Editor: Chris Bunuel Formoso
Email: learning@inquirer.com.ph

Lend a hand to Project Aral

ONE OUT of four children aren't the back to school this year because they can't afford school supplies. How can you help? Through the National Book Store Project Aral. For only P25, you can donate a Project Aral kit that contains two notebooks, a pencil and an eraser. For every kit Project Aral sells, donates? National Book Store Foundation will throw in a bigger, sweeter kit.

A Pinoy-made online game for kiddie skills

By Stephen Hermes A. Pedilla
Contributor

COMPUTER games have become the pastime of the new generation. And while parents do not want to begrudge their children some fun, they have real reasons to worry over the safety of their kids online and the presence of time-kills spend playing these games.

Much to the relief of parents, Pandayi Studio, a Filipino company that creates online and mobile applications, has bundled learning and fun together in a kid-friendly Internet game called SuperAlkid.com.

The virtual program for kids, launched last last year, was triggered by the popularity of the vending machine toys produced by Bread Vending LLC, the same American company that tapped PandaYan to design and create a free-to-play online game.

SuperAlkid is a safe and easy game that allows children to create an avatar, play mini educational games, explore the world, socialize with other kids across the world, grow countless pets, and even sell and take care of a pet SuperAlkidette. But—and all gamers here "font" because that's where the challenge is—their most diverse lesson the lookout for the evil SuperAlkid or the loop giving the good SuperAlkid a bad name.

PINOY: creator Joy and partners, in the person of Darwin Jarosa Pardin (left), are behind the big hit SuperAlkid (right), a game that helps kids with math, geography, memory and social skills.

SuperAlkid characters have their own respective quirks and collectible toys sold in capsules for as little as 50 coins apiece in the GS. Each component within a secret code that can be used in the game to unlock exciting features or earn premiums inside SuperAlkid. Only premium members can own a pet SuperAlkidette.

In the Philippines, Richwell Trading distributes the toys for P200 per tube of six encapsulated SuperAlkids.

To test some experimental amazing SuperAlp hours of all ages, PandaYan has an ongoing contest until June 30 that will give away P1,000 worth of SuperAlkid products to 100 winners, P5,000 in cash to 10 winners, an Apple iPod Touch to three runner-up winners, a trophy of Mobile 11, and a top prize of P50,000 in cash to one winner.

To join, all you have to do is buy a SuperAlkid toy at Toys R Us or Toy Kingdom, find a code inside the capsule and enter that code at www.superalkid.com.

Basic skills

SuperAlkid teaches mathematics and geography through its mini games, already 70 in number and still counting. It also has cool collaborations, memory and reflexes. Following multiplayer, it also helps develop social and communication skills.

"SuperAlkid involves some real basic education," says Darwin Jarosa Pardin, PandaYan's studio chief operating officer and cofounder.

To play the game, go to www.superalkid.com and click on "Play Now" located in the upper right-hand corner of the screen. Register first by typing a username and a password. The new user must also provide his/her parent's e-mail for activation. Once activated, the player can start exploring the virtual world, making new friends or playing mini games.

The other thing about SuperAlkid is the Aptoupia, one of the many maps in the virtual world. Clicking on the arrows will help the new user to be familiar with its gameplay. It is advisable to click on the first, named T Mansion, and start with a question mark shown in bold. As per educated.

Learning begins early as the first map will be click on Mighty Pandoro, the equivalent. The real game set up at the corner of Aptoupia and gives out facts about anything and everything under the sun.

"Pandoro, love this game," says Pablo. What's not to love? The

PHOTO FROM, H2

SQUISHY: fun-sized critters double as good stoppers for young fans.

'Animating' Filipinos for a global market

By Dax V. Pueyo
Contributor

FILIPINO DIGITAL animators may soon be joining the global animation industry as they expand their reach overseas.

The country's chief Bull animated feature film "Tobigo" is an instance of Pinoy's chance with its charming hand-drawn style. And it stands to have also released the first Filipino 3D film to Hollywood, "Rizal: The Motorcycle," showing that Filipinos have the potential to rule the world class animated feature films.

Despite the considerable gains, however, the local animation scene still has a long way to go due to a lack of skilled digital animators. This is partly because there are very few opportunities for Filipinos to gain the necessary skills.

Digimation ICE, an animation school based in Quezon City, wants to change all that. In a press conference, it announced it would be offering 3D digital animation courses at reasonable prices at La Consolacion College Manila (LCCM).

Filip Rodelas, chief executive officer and dean of Digimation, said that was an opportunity for Filipinos to get into the billion dollar gaming and animation industry.

Rodelas said, with the quality and level of education they were offering, Filipinos would have access to high-paying digital animation jobs.

Aaron, a student at Digimation ICE, said simply knowing digital manipulation and computer program outlets Maya and Adobe Photoshop was not enough to succeed in the business.

Aspiring animators should have a burning passion and love for their craft. Educators should not only teach students

LR. MELISA Hizo, OSA, president of LCCM

ANIMATING, H2

DIGIMATION'S Rodelas, Edsab Chavez, director for international operations, and Torres

Southville Foreign University Primes Its Graduates for Global Career Opportunities

Earning a foreign diploma while in the Philippines and easily qualifying for employment in many parts of the world have never been more achievable.

Southville Foreign University (SFU), observing its 15th founding anniversary this year, celebrates its position as one of the Philippines' leading educational institutions that is now the Philippine Bachelor as well as foreign nationals to give them a chance to earn a foreign diploma in the Philippines and minimize costs here in the Philippines.

SFU has since 1996 offered three-year foreign degree courses and a number of two-year diploma courses developed by its partner universities in the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom's University of Sunderland, Australia's International College of Hotel Management and Australian Institute of Business, which are awarding these degrees after the completion of certain educational requirements. With the U.K., New Zealand, Australia, Switzerland, U.S.A., to mention a few.

SFU delivers the awarding curricula prepared 100% by its partner institutions which lead to students to develop world-class skills and competencies — mainly qualifying them for employment in many parts of the world. Many graduates are a three-to-four month and be through 30-hour or long distance education.

In the school's balanced system of learning, a student, for example, can choose to take up a degree course that offers internship programs qualify him for employment opportunities overseas.

While a student may finish his college course and receive his diploma in Philippine soil, he can choose to pursue his studies for the option to study the third year of his course in the partner university abroad. Or, after the first year, he can opt to transfer to the Philippines to take up the graduation ceremony with the rest of the university of Sunderland's graduating class.

The choice of whether to have their children finish their foreign degree in the Philippines or elsewhere by the U.K., Australia, New Zealand or Singapore, parents' decision is considering that living costs in a foreign country may strain the family budget. Other than that, a student earning his foreign diploma through SFU's international program effectively prepares him or her to be a competent global career person. One of SFU's value-added offerings is its internship program, with students usually getting their jobs or training in enterprises either abroad or in the Philippines. Because of the school's tie-ups with companies in many parts of the world, SFU's graduates get employed within a year from graduation.

"SFU is our response to the growing globalization of markets. We live in a borderless world and educational institutions must be in step with the demand for world-class minds and practices," says SFU founder, education consultant and Southville International School and Colleges Chief Executive Wendel Geronimo Lobrigo-Tan, Ph.D.

SFU president, Dr. Merle Diamante notes, "We are proud that majority of our graduates have successfully found employment after graduation, especially abroad. Some even get job offers before their graduation. SFU's balanced system — which adds relevant skills and disciplines on students through various levels of college life — ensures their immediate employability. Even those graduates who choose to remain in the Philippines have received prized positions in multinational companies."

Dr. Diamante returned to the Philippines after her studies abroad and a successful career in the United States, the latest of which was as human resource executive and faculty at universities such as New York University and Baruch College, City University of New York.

Southville Foreign University offers Business and Computer Science degrees, Hospitality Management and Master of Business Administration. All its faculty are industry practitioners and a number were trained abroad or are foreign nationals. Mrs. Lanie Tan, whose hospitality management career extends from the '30 to the Middle East is the head of the School of Hospitality Management.

Courses offered are:
Bachelor's Degree in Business Management
Diploma in International Business: Marketing, Finance, Human Resource Management, Information Technology, E-commerce
Higher National Diploma: Hospitality Management, Leisure and Tourism, Culinary Arts
Advanced Diploma: Hospitality Management
M.B.A.: Management, Human Resource Management, Finance

For inquiries about Southville Foreign University's course offerings or our 15th anniversary highlights, please call 829-1454, 829-6744 and 829-1455, Bother yet, do drop by Diamante corner Lawmuseng St. Homes, International, Las Piñas City or visit our website: www.sfu.edu.ph

Playgrounds for the MIND

Member Schools

Ateneo home to more bird species

THERE ARE no eagles inside the Loyola Heights campus of the Ateneo de Manila University. But it may come as a surprise to many that the Ateneo is home to more than 180 bird species, which include the elusive Black-naped Oriole, the Eurasian Tree Sparrow commonly known as "Maya", and the Philippine Pygmy Woodpecker, an endemic bird that will remind anyone of the cartoon character "Woody Woodpecker."

Since April 11, the Ateneo Environmental Management Unit (AEMU), Ateneo Bird Ecology Study (Abes) group and the Wild Bird Club of the Philippines (WBCP) have been organizing a two-hour Bird Walk at the Ateneo's Loyola Heights campus. The itinerary of the bird walk showcases a visual delight of bird species encountered with a cool breeze that embraces the surroundings. The bird walk starts at the grounds of the Manila Observatory towards Seminary Road, and then to Lewis Hall/away which then segues into a narrow flight of steps that ends at the Bonifacio Gallo Foot Bridge, the trail continues to the "mini-forest" part in the vicinity of the Church of the Gesu and ends at the "Wildlife Sanctuary" facing the Jesuit Residence.

Birdwatching can be done anytime of the year however it is during summer that more resident birds make an appearance. Since the birders from AEMU, Abes and WBCP have been organizing bird walks since April for interested participants in the Ateneo community.

Dr. Arthur Mercia said that the main objective of the Bird Walk is to identify and characterize the different resident and migratory birds that share this campus with us. Knowing which species are present and where they dwell also helps us identify areas to develop as sanctuaries.

The Bird Walks are guided by volunteer members of the WBCP Bird Club of the Philippines and it is fortunate that one of the members is also a faculty of the Department of Biology, Bristol Garden. Gardan shared that bird walks are also valuable educational tools for everyone to know wildlife better and appreciate the value of our surroundings. And it is great to know that the Ateneo is one of the few green spaces in Quezon City which can still "promote wonder" for wildlife she added. Going out a bird walk is also a social activity, an opportunity for different people to interact outside the classroom or office setting, strengthening our sense of community she added.

So far, the groups have able to record 17 species during the first Bird Walk and 19 species during the second Bird Walk last May 1. Aside from the abundant Long-tailed Shrikes and Mayas, some of the notable species were the Black-Crowned Night Heron, the Chinese Goshawk, the Philippine Hanging Parrot (observed flocks at Colonial), and the Koelboal (observed at Seminary Road).

For more information or bird walk inquiries contact Abby Faria at cell. nos. 426-6004 ext. 4004 or 5690 or via telefax no. 02-924-0-4311. You may also visit www.ateneo.edu.

LPU Batangas is PH 1st SUC-recognized university

HELDEN JOSEPH Ignacio (c), "Talking Bird Lead" Jupiter, Assistant of the Philippine University of Batangas, award and Dr. "Tet" Ian Bautista (c) Vice-Chancellor (VP) Philippine Recognition Panel awards of recognition to the university. Achieving the #1 Standard (LPU Batangas) is the first academic institution to be #1 recognized in the entire country. #1 is an international quality standard focused on people aimed at improving business performance. It was developed by the International Organization (IRO) and introduced in 1987, primarily concentrated on business to people management. Not just getting short done through people, but developing people through work. LPU Batangas is stepping another remarkable supply - this time in people management. As LPU continuously pushes itself to the pinnacle of everything its good - achieving optimum customer satisfaction and responding to the need of the people in the province and nearby provinces as one of the sought after universities not only in the region but to the entire Philippines.

CCP dominates 2011 Cook Idol Competition

STUDENTS TAKING up Hospitality Management and Tourism Management courses at Central Colleges of the Philippines in Quezon City scored a major sweep of the top places of the Cook Idol Competition recently at the SMX Convention Center in the Mall of Asia area. Fourteen contestants with the 2011 International Food Expo (Ifex) like Flora Bote, 17-years-old, took first place with her entry Chicken in a Blister, earning a score of 86% from the board of judges. Not only was her spicy and creamy dish presented imaginatively, she also sang a decorable Japanese tune as part of her routine. One of the judges remarked that she has the unique potential to combine her culinary and showmanship talents and top places. Christian Gerardo bagged second place while Jerry Calderon placed third (78% score). Third place went to Diana Margaret Mongo-Pineda Cleanor Dela, 04-LL, while the fifth place was Gerald Palabrica (Cigi Cardoners, 80%).

CEU School of Law dean launches new book

CENTRO ESCOLAR University School of Law and Jurisprudence Dean Jacklyn Josue Bellosillo recently launched his 2011 edition of "Effective Pre-Trial Technique" book at the CEU Manila Campus. Present during the launching were Centro Escolar University Board of Trustees Chief Executive Corona, Sen. Nene Pimentel, CEU officials led by the president Dr. Ma. Cristina B. Padolina and the executive vice president Dr. Nieves P. de Leon, faculty and students of the CEU School of Law and Jurisprudence, former supreme court justice chiefs, ambassadors, district judges, attorneys, among other guests. The 2011 edition of the book garnered praises among personalities during the launch. Chief Justice Corona commended Bellosillo for her efforts in her book which is made more relevant as law.

At the time. The publication of this book definitely complements the Court's efforts towards the speedy resolution of cases," the Chief Justice remarked. He also emphasized that the book "serves as a powerful reminder to lawyers to remain faithful to their duties, to their clients and the court."

Faith offers lokolar ng Paroleys program

FAITH CPSSD its doors once again to scholastic from parishes in Batangas on the October top Paroleys program. The outcoming new offers full scholarship grants to all incoming freshmen for SY 2011-2012 from parishes in Alvarado VI. Faith will shoulder the tuition fee of P10,000 per semester or P40,000 yearly for students who qualify under the program. Scholars should come from parishes as insights of the altar Readers, Choir members, Communions or Lectors. They must also pass all their subjects in order to retain their scholarships. Application forms are available at Faith's Office of Scholarships and Financial Assistance (Osfa). All applicants must be recommended by their parish priests are entitled to the entrance and scholarship examination. The deadline for application is on June 3. Aside from the applicant's test results, the selection will also be based on other requirements such as recommendation from the parish priest and parochial involvement of the students. Interested applicants may gather touch with their parish or contact Faith Office of Scholarships and Financial Assistance Osfa at (02) 913-0800 loc 108 and 340.

MMCAA unveils 'Fuel A Dream' Benz raffle

FUEL A scholar's dream while you get a chance to drive your dream car. This is the idea that gave momentum of the Mandaluyong Mission College Alumni Association (MMCAA) all revved up during the launch of the special car raffle project dubbed "Fuel A Dream" held last month at the Gilt S. Molero Inc. Mercedes Benz-Greenhills showroom. The project is a continuation of Mandaluyong Mission College's (MMC) tradition to raise funds for scholarships, which started 10 years ago. The fund has not only supported numerous scholars from pre-school to college but has also sponsored trainings and seminars essential for faculty development. All alone in a luxurious platinum silver 2011 Mercedes Benz C200 CGI Elegance which will be raffled during the MMCAA Grand Alumni Homecoming on Sept. 16, at Mirano College. The event also marks the celebration of MMC's 60th year. For more information, interested parties can call the Mirano College External Affairs Office at 431-4054 or 403-5431.

DLSU features Paglipad ng Anghel

IN CELEBRATION of its centennial, De La Salle University with Pinoi Manila, in cooperation with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, presented Paglipad ng Anghel, a feature film written and directed by DLSU film faculty fellow Dr. Oscar "Oca" Jal Manalo. The movie features actor Jake Cuenca, Iza Calzado, Ejay Falcon, Lotlot de Leon, Angelica Panganiban and Jose Sonia, among others. A special press screening of Paglipad ng Anghel was held recently at the De La Salle College of Saint Benilde School of Design and Arts Cinema. Subsequent screenings will be held on various La Salle campuses nationwide, starting with a premiere showing on June 12, a prelude to the DLSU centennial celebrations on June 16. Paglipad ng Anghel was made to help raise funds for the DLSU Lasallian Scholarship Fund, a La Salle scholarship program that provides P1 billion or 10,000 scholarships in La Salle schools nationwide. The movie tells the story of a bird-hearted young man who grows a pair of angel wings on his back. The film aims to promote the general theme of goodness as part of La Salle's advocacy.

SM MALLS, GLFU PARTNER FOR LONGEST SUMAN

SM Masinag Mall recently opened its doors to the public. The event was made even more memorable with a grand opening celebration attended by 100's of residents, prominent Marikina officials led by Mayor Del De Guzman, Representative Lito Atienza, Rizal Governor Casimiro Ynares III and Antipolo Mayor Danilo Ynares. The mall's workout is one of the highest traffic areas in the mall and during its opening event, instead of the usual ribbon cutting ceremony, SM and the Lady of Fatima University Angeles University Foundation (LFUF) Nursing Department in capacity and Marigon de Ocampo to the Sitio Sampaloc Child Development Center (DC) Brgy. Mayor Forensic area inside public the skills and talents of the Sitio Sampaloc Child learn.

Ms Southville grabs slot in Miss Philippines-Earth

MICHELLE SARAGANA, a Mass Communication student of Southville International School and Colleges (SISC), and reigning Miss Southville 2010, lands a spot in the top 10 finalists of Miss Philippines-Earth 2011. She survived a series of interrelated events before the coronation night, proving not only her elegant beaming but also her sharp wit. The 21-year-old, 5'8" stunning lady from Meycauayan City bested 28 other pageant. Representing Las Piñas City, she bested 48 other lovely candidates to win the Ms Golden Sunset Special Award in one of the preliminary competitions held at Golden Sunset Resort, Calauagan, Batangas. In line with the celebration of the International Year of the Forests, Michelle's environmental advocacy focuses on saving trees through less paper usage. The Miss Philippines-Earth 2011 grand coronation night will be held June 5 at the Puerto Princesa City Coliseum, with telecast on ABS-CBN (Channel 7.

Feat student wins PLDT Visual Arts Nat'l Competition

LAST FEB. 3, Binalonan Philippines Corp (DPC) and the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT) conducted the 2011 Visual Arts National Competition with a prestigious awarding ceremony at the National Museum for the winners of the said competition. Honored among the prestige is the honor of being featured in the cover of the 2011-2012 PLDT Telephone Directory. Working on the theme, "Bridging Hipons to the World," students from 24 schools from all over the country submitted their entries for the competition as the long distance connects Filipinos to convenience, quality of life, and global opportunities. 17 paintings were received by DPC and PLDT for judging in a national competition. Of these works of art, Rolando Mendiola' painting, "Bridge for Rent," took first honorable mention. His prize: a handheld antenna from the SMART-UI-Celcosat, BSTLAUR and TUP. Rolando's work of art is the idea or theme of the Filipino's passion for communication. For Rolando, the artwork is a colorful highway of roads and networks that are readily accessible for all Filipinos. In December 2011, Rolando's painting will be displayed along with the other winning entries at the National Museum.

FEU Mass Com student bags 3 film awards

A JUNIOR Mass Communication student from the Far Eastern University clinched three major awards in three different film festivals. Anthony Bartolome's entry "Bintana" from the Philippine Women's University's 7th Sol Film Festival for "Video" in competition with 112 students. Carl Gerald Lorenzo Sabonsa, Andrea Quirino, and Gwynelle Dia from "Matay" took 48 entries from other universities. He also won second place at the Kathorne Manikin Isaac Initio Film Competition with his film "Halaga kaba ang Buhay?" with Mark Vincent Villacruz the writer and Cascarosa as manager. Finally, Bartolome was named second runner-up in De La Salle College of St. Benilde 3D, CGSD and Big Top Corporation's "24" film competition with his short film "24 Oras". The contest, that required participants to shoot their films in exactly within 24 hours. Bartolome also worked with Villacruz and Lacsina on this project.

FAO taps CLSU-CVSM as sole training provider

THE COUNTRY'S Luzon State University College of Veterinary Science and Medicine (CVSM) was tapped by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) as the sole veterinary institution to deliver the Applied Veterinary Epidemiology Training (AVET) Program. Dr. Palmer Dominic Dohoo, CVSM dean and head trainer of the program, said the responsibility entrusted by the FAO to CLSU-Temporada of the recognition it has gained internally for its training team involved in the process of developing, implementing and managing the AVET programs since 2008. CLSU has also been involved in the selection of the trainees and in the delivery of the entire course, as part of the core teaching team, which includes government and FAO staff. Dr. Gundran was among the epidemiologists in the country who conceptualized the AVET program's training modules. He also served as editor and one of the authors of the training manual. The program is designed to provide participants with numbers in the local government units to enhance their epidemiological capacity in disease surveillance and investigation, control and response. The three-year program used to approach is a teaching-by-doing. Besides staff in travelling animal health issues and programs. This will strengthen the capacity of veterinarians to conduct investigations and prevention of priority diseases in the country. It can also bring close partnerships between the public and private sectors. The CVSM-operating personnel will also participate in implementation. The recently-concluded 4th AVET training course Module 2 was attended by 15 veterinarians from six countries. The 3rd round four modules will be held in or separate nation and venues within the next half of the year.

Workshops to help make 'good guys' better

By Linda B. Bohle

THE SWEDISH government has given a P6.87-million grant for a project that will teach the nongovernment organizations (NGOs) in the Philippines how to operate with greater professionalism and business-like efficiency. Philippine Council for NGO Certification (PCNC) will implement the project.

At the several launchings of the NGO Clinics on the principles of accountability and Good Governance at the Ellipsiyo Bookstore Library on Makati Avenue in Makati City, speakers pointed out that good intentions and the sincerity and commitment of the people were often not enough to ensure the viability and survival of service organizations.

PCNC vice chair Felicitas C. Bolinao said many NGOs had to be assisted in ensuring their sustainability and viability as they could meet standards set by the accreditation with the council.

Executive director Luis P. Morales said many local NGOs needed help to improve their organizational functioning, including how to establish ties with other organizations so they could optimize use of resources and coverage of services.

The project, supported through the Agency in Expansión de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo, Inc. (AECID) or Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation, is in designed "to train NGOs to be more efficient, more productive" and to strengthen their internal management, said Maria Molina, Spain's deputy head of mission in the Philippines.

PCNC chairs Teodoro M. Bolinao II said the clinics would assist in strengthening the NGO sense of accountability to their donors and beneficiaries.

As implementers of the project, the PCNC would harness the services of volunteers from the more established and sustainable NGOs as coaches or trainers, Morales said. The trainers/NGOs would be learning from one another.

The workshops are expected to begin in the months in the National Capital Region. Each workshop will take two to three days. A total of eight workshops are being planned.

Subsequent workshops are planned for the first region, Leyte, Samar, Cebu City, Bonson City and Davao City. Interest will cover vision, mission and goals; governance; internal management; program operations; financial management and collaborative linkages.

Morales said some participants would be invited while others could apply. Priority will be given to NGOs that want to improve their organizational efficiency and effectiveness, but with little or no access to training.

Morales said they would want the executive director, a member of the board or a person in a position to effect improvements to attend the workshop.

Participants will not be charged any fees and will cover per diem and meals.

Manager of the proposed beneficiaries of the training programs are NGOs involved in education, including to fill gaps in resources—classrooms, school facilities, equipment and facilities, etc.—created by limited government finances.

Accreditation body

Organized by six of the country's largest NGOs, PCNC accredits organizations applying for donor recognition of donations/assistance status provided they meet minimum standards for accreditation.

While establishment of a response to a challenge from the Department of Finance for NGOs to police their ranks and ensure that organizations were pursuing avowed goals and objectives.

While the role of NGOs in national development—and in delivering basic services to underserved areas and populations—is recognized by the government that wishes it to enable to provide its every Filipino needs, the proliferation of so-called conduit service organizations has been a concern.

Some estimates place the total of purported nonprofit, NGOs in the country at 60,000, one-sixth of the 360,000 registered by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in the Philippine Directories.

The rapid rise in NGO numbers made it difficult for the government to counter and regulate those to make sure they were using their resources and donations for their declared purposes.

The government wanted to make sure donations to NGOs were not simply a way for individuals and/or organizations to avoid paying the correct taxes.

Pending changes to the challenge, the country's largest NGOs (Association of Foundations, Bishop Bonifacio Center's Conference for Human Development, Center of Development Ministries, National Council of Philippine Development Foundations and the Philippine Business for Social Progress) set up the PCNC as a self-regulatory mechanism and body that would "enable to the legitimacy, accountability and transparency of NGOs."

Only donations to organizations certified by PCNC as donee institutions will entitle donors to a corresponding 100 percent tax deduction.

In effect, the PCNC has become the gauntlet the good housekeeping seal to the NGO sector that assures donors that their chosen beneficiary is indeed deserving of their support.

Those interested in the clinics may write to PCNC, 6/F ICC Bldg., CBP-MIA Compound, 4407 Interior Old Sta. Mesa Rd., Sto. Mesa, Manila, e-mail pcnc@hotmail.net or fax 7132705.

PCNC board member Carmen Medina and executive Maria Dolopaine Spain's deputy head of mission Molina, PCNC chair Monsignor Gaston Gorrens, AECID program officer; and PCNC executive Felicitas Bolinao and executive director Morales

Book finder

National Geographic Kids Almanac 2012
By: National Geographic Kids
Age group: 6-12

NOT ONLY is the National Geographic Kids 2012 Almanac facts-crammed, it is a perfect reference material and homework helper.

Developed by educators, it is chockfull of quirky facts, amazing animals, and inventions, funny cartoon illustrations, noise quizzes, game living, natural disasters, maps, puzzles—all kinds of information irresistible to kids.

This kids' almanac boasts of native life created by National Geographic's more researchers and photographers.

The almanac makes up 40 percent of this 2011 edition, including projected New World nations, maps of the continents, extra 100 pictures, new game section better top photo graphics, illustrated

pen and pencil games, and other bookmarks.

Photos of animals, adventures, and nature; hundreds of facts and figures, and fun fashion photos about incredible creatures, space, earthlore, and more, this book new almanac is a must-have for school-age kids.

Available at all National Book Stores and Fully Books.

Gear up for new school year

WITH OVER 125 branches nationwide, National Book Store is the most convenient one-stop-shop this back-to-school season.

Bring home the Multimedia Gadget Bundle for every single-receipt purchase worth P1,000 with any participating product marked with the "N" sticker. The Multimedia Gadget is the perfect travel buddy to keep your cell phones, music players and other accessories safe and intact.

Get the Gadget Bundle for only P199 for every single-receipt purchase worth P600 with any participating product.

THE MULTIMEDIA Gadget

Get help from the National Book Store Magalogue, a catalogue and a magazine of school essentials, with the "N" Sticker. The Gadget Bundles has free ring binders and fill sheets of paper perfect for scribbling notes and ideas. It also has a special grid and two extra pockets to support your gadgets.

For more news to all Citibank cardholders: Get a free Mix-n-Match-to-think bare pack with every P800 purchase using your Citibank credit card. Visit National Book Store and get these three amazing deals this back-to-school season. See mobiles and promos for complete details.

A shot at a good start ...

From page H8

teachers teachers to Vida Bonifacio Lopez of the Ateneo de Manila University. Ruth Lopez and Ofelia are currently taking graduate courses in early childhood education.

The faculty is supported by teacher aides.

Time teachers move

multitude of direct and indirect strategies. They work in centers, using community, and promote friendships and collaborative learning," said Marquez.

The Ramón founded the school in 2007 with the support of Rowena's high school buddy Juliet Constantino. CLE started with 14 students.

Enrollment steadily increased. Last year, the school had 30 enrollees. This year, the founders are confident that CLE's child-oriented curriculum will bring more students.

"My wife and I chose the center practices. This is not purely business; this is also us having an extended family," said Alfredo, who makes it a point to interact and play with the kids during his free time.

CLE may be reached at 02800307 or 0922-9765946.

Must-know for every family biz

THE CENTER for Global Best Practices (www.cgbp.org) is holding a quick one-and-a-half day seminar on "Best Practices in Family Business Governance and Family Constitution" June 9-10 at the Peninsula Hotel, Makati City.

Interested participants are encouraged to enroll at the early bird and group discounts. Limited seats are available so pre-registration is required.

Visit www.cgbp.org or call 02/5568999-00 (Manila) and 032/3412000-07 (Cebu) or e-mail zoeb@cgbp.org or lovely@cgbp.org.

A family constitution, when crafted properly is a powerful tool in resolving issues among family business members.

The document should include values that the family and business must uphold; roles and responsibilities of owners, directors and stakeholders; and rules everyone must follow. The seminar will also touch how to create family councils, address conflicts in boardrooms and meetings, and resolve business issues.

Resource person is CGBP Fund's Business Center program director Nenette Pilota Medado, MBA, founder of the Center for Business Development Studies, Asia Gokongwei School of Management of the Ateneo de Manila University where he taught for 15 years and was director until 2007. He has also taught family business management in San Francisco State University.

He will share his extensive research, knowledge, expertise, experiences and lessons learned as a stakeholder (family member), member and chief executive officer of Kennedy Ford Chicken and president of Red Ribbon Franchise Corp. (1996-2005).

Online games ...

From page H8

equality has spread online, are vulnerable and irresistible to kids from 6 to 16. The developers know it. They've hired psychologists to explain the game and entice them of their kids' safety while in hyperdrive.

"We have game designers and moderators who accept inquiries and guide players," says Tarsha Stone, a gamer who have all received background checks. are on duty around the clock. They even very well nasty, kick out and suspend an errant player.

Also enticing to parents is the game's filter system, which cracks inappropriate words and entices the virtual world. Featuring Netflix-constantly updates the curse word list. Hi to stores, according to Tarsha.

Tarsha is glad that her son has become fun and more mature due through the use of the Internet.

The subscription of games into education is such a hit that, in less than a year since its launch, SpeakMind.com has attracted more than 400,000 active users worldwide. Most of the players are from the US, Canada, Australia and the Philippines.

Positive Parks aims to reach a million users by July, in time for SpeakMind.com's first anniversary.

Tarsha scheduled for the chance to help kids and parents early what he does best.

"It started as a hobby," he says. "My passion is to build games. And now I like-ough SpeakMind.com, I have the opportunity to teach the kids something using my skills and the very passion."

Tarsha, who has a degree in computer application and information science from San Beda College, is hopeful about the growth of the gaming industry in the Philippines.

"When I was studying, I didn't see many opportunities for game developers. But now I can see a bright future for developers in the country."

As a board member of the Game Developers Association of the Philippines, Tarsha seeks fund to achieve that goal "to bring more clients, like Zynga, EA Games...Blizzard here to create more jobs in the country."

In love in war

From page H8

Dina stood behind, at Virgilio's request, with her two younger brothers.

After her mother and sisters left, Virgilio asked Dina to marry him. She was shocked. She was only 14.

"I'm not ready. I'm too young. I'm afraid. Please don't protest you if we don't get married? I need to be able to stay with you always because people will marry talk. Reasons or later, we will have to leave this place. The Japanese will come. I don't want you behind," Still, Dina refused.

Safe house

One day, Virgilio asked Dina and her brothers to move to the family's house where they would be able to think about the next other people to stay with them.

Every day, the "evacuees," as they called themselves, heard that the Japanese were coming. They heard of the atrocities committed by the enemies, particularly against young women.

The soldiers reportedly knocked on doors and asked for food and women. Many men died trying to protect the girls in their families.

It was only women tried to protect themselves by shaving their heads bald, smearing charcoal on their faces, or wearing men's clothes. Others supposedly dug tunnels under their houses to hide the girls.

Dina and the others heard that the Japanese were already in the area town. Everybody was afraid. Even the parish priest moved to Virgilio's house.

Virgilio asked Dina again to marry him. Already very frightened, Dina felt pressure to rush them the rest of the group because she was the only single woman in the house.

Still, she was reluctant to accept Virgilio's proposal in order to finish her studies. They would be able to marry.

Virgilio said, "The Japanese will be here soon. I have to take you away with me. After I return from to get you."

Something borrowed

So, the next morning, the parish priest married them in simple ceremonies. Dina wore borrowed shoes; the dining table became the altar, and a few turkeys to the backyard were roasted.

After breakfast, the couple left the house, having decided to go as far away from the town as possible on foot, toward the mountains.

At the end of each day, they would go to the nearest house and ask for food or shelter for the night there. The next morning, they would walk again. They traveled for weeks. Everyone was so kind. They were never refused shelter, and were even offered food.

After traveling for weeks, they finally heard the news that the Japanese had left their town and it was safe to return.

Soon, Dina was pregnant with her first child and they went to Manila. As it turned out, the Japanese in Manila were far better than in the provinces. Not all the Japanese soldiers, especially officers, were tyrannical and merciless. Officers were mostly assigned to the cities.

In Manila, one Japanese captain asked Dina's husband if they could rent the upper floor of the house where the couple was staying. Virgilio agreed but was sad Dina to stay away from the Japanese. But the Japanese never bothered anyone to the house during their stay. The captain always saluted Virgilio when they met and even offered food.

When Dina became pregnant with her second child, she returned to her parents' house. The young wife, who had a Spanish upbringing, was expected to stay at home to care for the children.

The bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki ended the war and life returned to normal.

Now 88-years old, Mamang Dina, as she is fondly called, remains sharp. She insists on living on her own, perhaps to enjoy as much of the freedom she really did not have for most of her life.

She raised eight children and has 22 grandchildren.

Mamang Di, my Spanish teacher and my dear friend, has touched so many lives, especially mine. She credits every single day for being given extra time to be here with family and friends, cheers her complete...and listens to our concerns.

If World War II did not happen, would she have married the same man? It is said everything happens for a reason.

'Animating' Filipinos ...

From page H1

the needed technical skills but also signals the spark of creativity so inherent in everyone.

Sarah Edwards, video game animation studio by organizing 3D students on the history of animation...from comic cave paintings to motion "scopes" of the late 19th century and to-day's advanced computer programs capable of projecting entire worlds before guided audiences.

An impressive segment broke down explosion scenes as Hollywood moves to show viewers how they were made and how much effort was taken to make them look so realistic in post-production.

Period during the post-conference was Ryan Flynn, a projected last new in games design at University of Gloucestershire, United Kingdom. Flynn said the animation industry is a key factor, especially during times of recession, because of the unions' insatiable demand for entertainment.

Flynn added that anyone with skills in digital animation could work from their desk at home and...on their laptops, even games that could sell immediately. He cited Angry Birds, a simple game made by a small team of skilled individuals that became a hit worldwide with more than 200 million downloads.

But Flynn said, despite the potential of the games industry, there was a need for well-trained digital animators. Many game developers look to artists for professionals with limited skills.

Digimation UK hoped that by offering storyboards quality education, they would help to build safe yet responsible positions and solutions in a competitive field.

The school offers two-year courses that teach students technical skills that can also be used in many other fields, and to computer programming.

Students who graduate from the two-year courses can take advance animation courses at the prestigious University of Greenwich in London.

A shot at a good start in education

By Dennis M. Erce
Inquirer Libre

PASIG was shooting hoops on the pro basketball league, Benjamin Rimando spends his time with his 5-kilogram stroller. Children's Little University (CLU) at No. 68 Sisa Ave., Barangay South Triangle near SM's CBD in Quezon City.

A graduate of early childhood education, mater in guidance counseling and child psychology from De La Salle University (DLSU), Rimando, a nine-year veteran of the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA), is co-administrator of the five-year-old school.

Students are divided into toddlers (1.5-2.5 years old), sophomores (2.6-3), juniors (3.6-4) and a half), seniors (4.6-5.5) and transitors (5.6-6.5).

"I love this job," said Rimando, who sees plans for Manila-Cebu-Davao-General Santos franchise. Previously, she ran food parties and sold tiles. "I'm not a parent eating up for 'Talk 'N Text and Ariel Taperos.

The only son of Maria "Baby" Rimando, a former professor of psychology at the University of the Visayas and a consultant of "The Forensic Expert" in Palm Springs, California, and educators was always close to his heart.

"Even when he was playing basketball in college, Reuben knew he must have his own numbers," said his mother.

Rimando used the former Margaux Dacon at DLSU. Like him, she was interested in educating kids.

Margaux, CLU's directress, said the school's main priority was to maintain its excellent standards.

"I'm proud to say that our graduates eventually made it to Ateneo, Miriam, St. Paul, St. Theresa's, St. Scholastica's, Claret and other prestigious schools," said Margaux, who stressed that excellence is based through hands-on activities that were fun and interesting.

"At meals as possible, children explore actual objects. We make it a point to have culminating activities depending on the theme for the month. We also have field trips, sports fests and other fun games and activities," she said.

She added that teachers were done on a one-on-one basis.

"Our classroom is a warm, friendly place, with a careful balance between child-initiated and teacher-led activities," said Margaux.

At present, our teacher has no more than 10 pupils. CLU's high-caliber teaching staff includes supervisor Jazmin Faye Olivar and Maria Batiola Bayocbe. Both have Bachelor of Sciences in Child Development and Education degrees from St. Joseph's College and Miriam College, respectively.

ABOUT 80

(Top) From left: Cassandra, Victoria, Lopez, Oliver, and Margaux and Serena Rosales, left and right (CLU) classroom.

In love in war

By Criselda C. Gabiana
St. Mary's School

Editor's Note: The following is excerpted from the non-fiction that won third prize in the 2011 NHCP Dra. Soledad Lorenzo Barbasa non-cash prize with a grand prize of Philippine Veterans Bank savings deposit of P5,000, while her brother-coach, Eduardo S. Bobon Jr., received P3,000 cash prize (PVB.)

SECUNDINA G. Magno was 13 years old on Dec. 8, 1941, when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor that brought World War II to the Pacific.

The daughter of a Spanish father and a Chinese mother, she had just graduated from high school and was waiting past exam in a library of the Far Eastern University on an August noon. Cute-H. Kenko Restaurant in Manila. She planned to enroll at the University of Santo Tomas and get a civil job.

On the front of the historic date, Concepcion, never smiled and her whole neighborhood talked about the bombing. They said the Japanese would attack the Philippines, too, as it was under American rule.

The Japanese air force destroyed Clark Air Base and, a few weeks later, the Japanese landed in Lingayen.

The Allied forces of American and Filipinos suffered devastating casualties. Manila was declared an open city.

Secundina and her family stayed in their house. Every time they heard a plane, they hid under the staircase.

One early morning, a dirty Cadillac entered carrying a young man of 21, Virgilio Cerbero, a student of the De La Salle College, was a family friend from Nueva Ecija and Dina's ardent suitor.

The family was surprised at his sudden arrival. He explained that he came to bring them to safety, offering to bring the family to Nueva Ecija where Dina's aunt had a farm. Dina's father refused to leave the

Secundina Magno (center) with her children Dina, Jose and Virgilio, and grandchildren Jose Jr. and Eduardo Jr. (standing) in Quezon City.

house but Dina, her mother, and eight siblings left.

The farm of Dina's aunt was near the barrio of Virgilio's family. She visited Dina frequently and also brought her to his home to meet his family.

Dina's mother was pregnant, decided to send her husband to Manila because the hospital in the province was too

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The Italian paradox

Dimitri V. Escobar

ITALY (60) its people are a mass of contradictions.

Age-old monuments, churches and palaces in Rome and Venice, with their weathered facades, are new all-wonders show showcasing the latest Gucci, Prada and Valentino creations.

Taxi drivers zoom through narrow cobble, traffic lights "only a suggestion," said Silvana, our Rome guide. "But barely miss the street, do not run, do not flinch," she told me privy of more than 30.

Yet amid the hustle and the blaring of horns, Italians seem to be able to find time for their daily rituals, such as the lunch followed by siesta.

Italians could take life easy now and popular guide Francesco in a BBC travel special, since "it'll the hard work into those long naps."

No taboos

Religion is felt, and in the Vatican, it is passion. Stunning cathedrals and basilicas made almost every corner with gorgeous frescoes and murals from long ago. But many buildings paid to the creation of pagan cities, such as the Pantheon (meaning "to all the gods").

Augustus Caesar's general, Marcus Agrippa, commissioned the Pantheon as a temple to Roman deities. But on centuries after Christ, the Pantheon BC transformed it into a church.

During the Renaissance, the Pantheon became a tomb to the painter Raphael and the composer Corelli and, in the 20th century to King Umberto I and his wife Queen Margherita. After reborn the Margherita pizza, with red tomatoes, green basil and white cheese, was named. Red, green and white are the colors of the Italian flag.

Today, the Pantheon is still a church, but tourists flip coin another films goers. The same is true of Rome's churches.

One Sunday morning, in different languages, the priest invited tourists in the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels and Martyrs just to be confused with the Pantheon, which is the Church of St. Mary and the Martyrs in Santa Maria. Not only a handful did. The rest were more interested in the tomb of Pope Pius X, the statue of Goddess Golden, and the mentioned molded

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'Nose bleed' no more: The promise of John Robert Powers-ELP

By Grace M. Sinapit-Ash

HOW DO Filipinos perceive using and learning the English language? Let us take a look at some contrasting scenarios to different points in classrooms:

• Students always ask if they can speak in Tagalog because they are having a hard time expressing their thoughts in English. The term "nose bleed" was coined to refer to such difficulty in speaking in English.

• IT and Engineering students are taking English for granted because they think that they would not use it in their fields anyway. In offices:

• Executives talk to each other in English, but they would switch to Tagalog when they address secretaries, utility personnel, and other people deemed to be not proficient in English.

• Some people are hesitant to speak in English when they have that they are talking to an English teacher or to someone with a "strong" bo bas that they will be criticized. In beauty pageants:

• Candidates have a hard time understanding their questions and expressing their ideas as well.

From these scenarios, it is clear that a number of Filipinos are not comfortable using English, and to some extent, not that problems in the realm of English proficiency.

John Robert Powers Manila recognizes the need for Filipinos to fit up on their English communication skills. That is why the English Learning Program (ELP) came to life. ELP is a unique program that integrates Student-led Classes, Conversation Clubs, Online Grammar Labs, and English for Specific Purposes (ESP) to further enhance the four macro skills - listening, speaking, reading, and writing - of the students. The program is designed and customized to suit the students' needs. As soon as one is done before assigning he students to different levels to make sure that their specific needs are addressed.

ELP students range from pre-teens (10 years old) up to professionals (60 years old) and vary from businessmen, lawyers, accountants, politicians, celebrities, and others. Aliel Ross, the son lawyer student, claims that after taking our usage of the ELP programs, her English has really improved and she has gained more confidence too. A congressperson, who is also taking English courses, says that she is enhancing and learning even more from the JRP ELP courses that she is taking.

JRP ELP advocates to change the negative perception that Filipinos can be English language by producing individuals who can proficient in the English grammar and are competent in delivering the knowledge that is the law. After taking courses at JRP ELP you will "nose bleed" no more. He/she will be able to remain grammatically correct and contextually appropriate English, whether is written or to spoken form.

Of course, there is no promise that students will turn English in an instant. It will not happen overnight, but with the ELP programs and with the student's effort, courage, practice, and determination, it will definitely happen.

Another 125 SM scholars graduate this year

SOME 125 students under the scholarship program of the SM Foundation graduated this year, proving that poverty is never an obstacle in achieving the education one wants or deserves.

In its 11th year, the foundation has helped thousands of less fortunate students who would otherwise, perhaps, not have went to college or would have had a much harder time doing so what with the expenses of getting a degree nowadays.

Through its scholarship projects, which supports some 600 college students every year, the SM Foundation (SMF) has served as the vehicle for boosting themselves through education.

"At first, I was nervous of other people's expectations of me. My mom is a housewife and my dad cultivates ponies in the province. Before the scholarship, I wasn't sure if I'd be able to go to college. But now, here I am," said 20-year-old Jay-ann Orebello, who graduated as summa cum laude with a degree in accountancy at the University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos.

The 125 graduates gathered at the SMX Convention Center earlier this month for the presentation of scholars to Henry Sy, the man who started the mighty SM Group of Companies decades ago.

Out of the 125 scholar graduates, 49 received honors, including two summa cum laude graduates—one is Orebello and the other is John Andrew Bermudez of the University of the Philippines who graduated with a degree in computer science.

The scholarship covers the students' tuition in the school of their choice and awards P5,000 allowance (for Metro Manila students). SMF regularly gathers the students for programs like Christmas parties and pick-hats.

What sets this scholarship apart is that SM doesn't obligate the graduates to work at SM, although most of the graduates picked to work for the conglomerate as a way of saying thank you to the helping hand that got them through their college education. *Kenneth M. del Rosario*

Love your books

By Michelle Nuñez

AS HE TOOK fallen love with scratch-bound book, with its crisp leaves and teeming smells of those's magic stuck between the pages, you were trapped it with one life. Yet, does it still, keep it to one condition, and put it where your eyes can see.

But what's the point of taking care of your books if it is taken it with a clean, smooth and transparent cover.

For most students, wrapping newly bought books with plastic cover is a big tradition to look forward to. There is no excuse for crimson and grimace. When books are all covered to consequences shown, you feel assurance spirit to pick them up and leave many about their stories.

Today, much has has been discussed as to whether a paperless country will eventually leave people to discard bulky books and notebooks, and instead settle for the handy tablet computer and laptop. Everything is almost digital and the groaning fear that paper would soon be obsolete remains a cause for alarm.

However, despite computers with one of the top-selling products for school. As for us Filipinos, Virgo Paper Corporation is one revered, plastic covers materials to be a huge part of back-to-school consuming.

"Paper, with its low cost and flexibility, is still a very useful product. Also, the cons of high-tech gadgets is still problematic and users holds the rating," said Orestes Bautista, president of Philippines' Most Trusted Paper Corporation which is behind Bantex, a premium and trusted brand in the market.

Despite its digital competitors, Bautista believes that their stability in the industry is largely due to their ability to keep up with the consumer's demands. "We ensure our objective to manufacture quality products at affordable prices," Bautista said.

Today, Bantex's products are distributed all over the Philippines, and the arena had been expanding product in Italy, Australia and China.

"We also ensure a conducive by upgrading our machineries and incorporating new technology parties to fit the efficient use of electric power and high production output," he added.

Established in 1951, the company originally was raised into manufacturing flipflops and shoes. Soon after, Pamaranan also explored other synthetics, rubber-based products such as rubber mats, rubber components, synthetic leather, shower curtains, and finally, Dura-plastic book covers for school use.

Traditions are passed down from generations to generations. In the age of computers, e-book readers and digital technology, books in the flesh still remain—even more if wrapped in glossy and gleaming protectors.

New book captures Ateneo Law School's 75 years of excellence in legal education

FOR THREE quarters of a century, the Ateneo Law School (ALS) has contributed to raising the bar in legal education in the Philippines. The men and women behind the institution that brought honor to the school, the legal profession, and the country are now captured in an exquisite coffee table book titled "Arbiter, Integritas, Justitia." Through hundreds of images and elegantly-written stories, the book presents the genesis of a legacy by the Society of Jesus (SJ). The way that saved the original Padre Faura in Manila and the struggle for the restoration of democracy that divided the nation failed as flag-bearer of the students and faculty of the Ateneo Law School.

"Many other images made the book," outgoing Ateneo de Manila University president Fr. Bienvenido F. Nebres, S.J., writes in the foreword. Nebres added that he is "grateful" for the many stories on legal luminaries and heroes like Chief Justice Claudio Teehankee Sr., Emilio Javier Jr., and Bobby Ongpin, as well as "the many other leaders and countrymen here made Ateneo Law School the great school that it is today."

In fact, Chief Justice Hilario G. Corona even wrote an article extolling the many virtues of studying law the Ateneo way.

In his foreword, Fr. Joaquin L. Bernas, SJ, a constitutionalist and law professor at the ALS dean, said that the book captures the law school's contribution to nation building. Its students have won national and international moot court competitions, Bernas wrote. "The school's graduating students regularly reap the highest percentage of passing in the National Bar Examinations. Many alumni are highly respected in law practice, in the service of legislation, and in local and national executive positions. Many more are being appointed to the various levels of the judiciary, including the Supreme Court."

The hundred-plus 300-page coffee table book, whose title means "truth, integrity, and justice" in Latin, would serve as the highlight of the 75th anniversary of the Ateneo Law School on June 6.

Written by students of the Ateneo Law School and veteran journalists, the coffee table book is published by the Ateneo Law School by Shelmarie Cruzmedina Inc./ Moa Books. Co-publishers are Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J. and Cesar Ty Tan-Ji. Villanueva. The book is being distributed mainly by the Ateneo Law School.

For more information about "Arbiter, Integritas, Justitia," please visit http://lawadmin.edu or contact Lolita Lim at tel. no. (632)899-7407 or e-mail at lim@ateneo.edu

Developing the right attitude towards...

From page 1

is equally important because parents will have no idea if there is a difference on how they act in school and at home. Sometimes, when they are surrounded with parents who play with, children sometimes forget the learning. But they shouldn't be reminded for it.

"Parents should also give their children 'space' by letting them study on their own but assist/up/here that they are around to offer guidance and support as needed. They should gradually 'wean' their children, and give them a free hand, so as to make them to be independent."

What are the key indicators if a child is enjoying learning? The first one to come to mind is the grades. But according to Ramos-Ocha, "While grades are not the only one most important index of success, they still play some important role. It gives parents an idea what their child has most of the lessons. Grades in this instance can be a reference and an indication to know if the child/she will in the class. If he is having any difficulties, or is ready to move to the next level."

Home studies or not, children should always be treated as achievers to help them keep going. "Achievement develops confidence in a child. Confidence allows the child to try even new things, challenge themselves to learn on their own, therefore it develops independence. These skills are important even beyond school and are factors significant to a person's future success. However, it is important to instill in a child that no achievement is ever too small or too minor than others. Rather give children support and love no matter how small their achievements are. Support and love will help them to become better every day."

Ramos pointed out the potential of task-individualized work as individualized work starting method. Based on task-individual instruction and study at the "just right" level. Ramos seeks to improve the skills of each child and maximize their potential.

Ramos's website is http://ph.kumonglobal.com

HOME students or not, children should always be treated as achievers to help them keep going.

MONGOL:

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In the Philippines, when you talk about pencils you're talking about Mongol.

Throughout the decades of modern Filipino history, Mongol has been part and parcel of the Philippine experience. It has accompanied Pinoys, from the nursery to the board room, all the while providing the consistent and superior quality that it has always been known for. Today, Mongol is so ubiquitous that when a person jots down a note or drafts a letter he doesn't ask for a pencil, he asks for a Mongol.

Mongol Pencils' place in history is due greatly to its acknowledged role as an important steward of the Philippines' future. Generations of Filipino students have used Mongol's range of products to express themselves and give shape to their imagination, helping them excel in every endeavor.

In light of this legacy, the Star Paper Corporation, the exclusive distributor of Mongol Pencils and Newell Rubbermaid products in the Philippines, has dedicated itself to continuing that tradition of excellence. And that tradition will be filled with the colorful shades of Mongol Crayons.

"Did you know that crayon is French for pencil?" asks Nica De Belen, a Marketing Executive with Star Paper. "Mongol Crayons' addition to the Mongol line-up is a natural evolution of our commitment to youth development."

Aside from its name, Mongol Crayons have the same standards of high quality present in all Mongol products. They possess brilliant shades that offer the best color mixing experience, have longer lasting crayon sticks and feature smooth applications every time.

"Mongol Crayons let kids be creative even at the youngest ages," says Jeremy Tan, Senior Marketing Manager of the Star Paper Corporation. "And it lets us continue Mongol's mission of promoting quality education."

And it's not only Star Paper who can see Mongol Crayon's vast potential. Gymboree Play & Music, a global leader in pre-school learning, has chosen Mongol Crayons to be their official crayon in the Philippines. Kris Aquino's youngest, Baby James, lets his likeness become the face of Mongol Crayons. National Bookstore has also joined with Mongol, offering specially marked Mongol Crayon boxes at selected outlets that entitle purchasers to a 75% discount on Gymboree Art Classes*, redeemable at any Gymboree branch. All for improving the way young Filipinos learn.

With the addition of Mongol Crayons, the worthy tradition started by Mongol decades ago perseveres and it will be no surprise if it continues for decades more.

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School aims for child's total development

By Marlet D. Salazar

Since it started its partnership with the Department of Education (DepEd) in 1998, Ayala Foundation Inc.'s (AFI) Center for Excellence in Public Elementary School (Centex) has already graduated 800 students and a huge percentage is still in high school and on their way to college.

This is proof that public school system, when done right, really works.

Like any other advocacy, Centex gives the under-privileged–but bright–children the opportunity for quality education. In working with DepEd and teachers, AFI is able to provide children with their basic school needs such as infrastructure, books and supplies, and uniforms among others.

The first Centex school was established in Tondo, Manila, following by Centex Batangas' Binalonan's nine years later. Each class has a maximum of 25-30 pupils, way lower than the usual 60 to even 80 pupils in an ordinary public school.

CENTER provides a nurturing school climate that develops self-esteem and servant leadership.

CENTER is a public school learning environment where bright children from economically disadvantaged families receive quality education.

Curriculum

But the assistance goes beyond the material things. Perhaps, the most notable is the addition of three subjects in the curriculum that are distinct to Centex schools.

Ramon Miranda, director of Centex, said: "We are making efforts for the total development of students."

As a public school, Centex has all the basic subjects provided by DepEd. The three additional subjects are Computer Language Arts, Music, and Self-Esteem.

"We want to help children gain self-confidence because it's important given their background," Miranda said.

The Self-Esteem program is a once-a-week workshop where children are taught basic skills in critical thinking, identifying problems, and conflict resolution. It is more than just a classroom subject. The instructor for this subject is a psychologist or (the school's) guidance counselor.

"It's a time, then do carry out (how to) sorting to their homes," Miranda said, "because they have the tools to analyze the situation." In the process, they develop their self-esteem and be more aware of themselves especially on what they want for themselves.

Music is another identifying component of a Centex graduate. Yes, other schools already have Music subjects but Centex starts introducing Do Re Mi under grade six. "It is another way of developing all their other intelligences," Miranda said. "It's time to identify the special gifts of children in the area of music rather than singing or by playing instruments."

Miranda also said that Centex wants to enhance its arts programs especially in visual arts.

The Computer Language and Arts can be considered a major subject at Centex. Biological traits aside, pupils are already taught basic computer skills from the moment they set foot in school. It goes all the way to grade school. By the time they reach Grade 5 or Grade 6, computer class is already part and parcel of their school life. They do their book reports and other school requirements in the computer laboratory. Each Centex school has a fully equipped computer laboratory.

Equity

People have to understand that these bright children come from needy families and not many of the parents could send them to schools (not in public schools where everything is supposed to be free).

Centex encourages parents to become part of their children's school needs. By giving at least 30 hours of their time a year, it's like they are sending their kids to school. The jobs are mostly physical maintenance work in room, helping out teachers or bringing food to children from the canteen to the classroom. There are also some parents who have some skills in carpentry, electrical, or even painting and they also help out.

"Some parents go way beyond the required 30 hours," Miranda said. "The Bayanihan thing (where people voluntarily willingly help) is to Jose goes on in Centex whole year round."

The kind of involvement empowers the parents because they feel that they have an investment in their children's education.

"We want to really see them as partners," he said.

Teacher training

Centex teachers undergo training every year for their advancement and development. This will also help the children in the process. But there's one particular teacher training that is interesting to note.

Centex has a curriculum coach or who observes teachers in action every day or at least on a regular basis. Classroom teachers are reminded of things that should be observed or practiced inside the classroom, "and just as important is that they are counseled for

CENTER students are given the chance to discover and realize their full potentials.

THE CENTER curriculum emphasizes language arts, math, science, values, environment and being Filipino.

DK hosts on the support of the students.

Lessons from the island

By Michelle Pelaez

FOR SOME Mindoro students, going back to school means a chance to find greater meaning and purpose that is not limited to the four corners of the classroom.

It is based in the remotest of islands, the virtually unknown barangays, and the less privileged communities. During summer and weekends, they plant trees, clean up the shores, tell stories to children, paint walls and build houses and schools. They go in pairs, in groups, and in multitudes, to trek closer to that ultimate goal—fight the big fight against poverty.

GK-heroes, for one, recently went to an adventure in Banton Island, Cobrador along with many other volunteers to head to a higher call and find a greater purpose.

It reminded me to be a summer affair to remember.

The most successful poverty alleviation and nation-building movement in the country today is Gawad Kalinga. Founded by Tony Meloto, Gawad Kalinga has lived and breathed its mission to give "hand to the landless, home to the homeless, and food for the hungry." To date, it has established communities all over the Philippines, as well as in the US, Canada, Europe, Australia, Colombia, and Papua New Guinea.

Gawad Kalinga believes that "poverty is not an economic problem but rather, a behavioral one. The root cause of poverty for GK, as pointed in its website, is not a "scarcity of resources" but a "deep and painful lack of caring and sharing in our society." We have focused on ourselves and our loved ones, forgetting that we are all connected to each other."

So it continues to gather active and committed volunteers. It forges partnerships with private and public institutions to strengthen their mission to build a better future to the dreams of a poverty-free Philippines.

More importantly, GK leans on the support of the students, who early on recognized that being young is not an excuse to do something about the country's problems.

Bayani Challenge

Since 2008, Gawad Kalinga has been conducting the GK Bayani Challenge in its hope to strengthen GK communities and foster new friendships along the way. It is a five-day test of courage, endurance and how far country's shore we can go. It's people go on an adventure to plant hope on ground by building homes and communities.

This year, the theme Challenge is themed "Kalinga ng Bayan," a call for every Filipino to be a nation builder, or Bantayan Island in Cebu. Around 1,700 volunteers from all over the country and the world came to participate. People from California, Dallas, Santa Rosa, Bulacan, Compostela Valley, Iligan, Sultan Kudarat, Manaoag, Manila, Dumaguete, Bacolod and Cebu formed teams for the challenge. Teams from Australia, Canada, USA, Singapore, France and Germany also participated.

GK-ATTENDED also brought students, alumni, administrators and maintenance personnel to Cebu.

GK-heroes also brought students, alumni, administrators and maintenance personnel to Cebu. While poverty, as GK believes, "is not a lack of resources, but a lack of caring and sharing," in four country April 8 days to Bantayan Island, it was overflowing.

"Whatever color of our skin, dialect we speak, whatever we came from, we as a people of God are united to combat poverty in this country," said Ryan Abalos, GK Aimen partnership and advocacy coordinator. "It was also a meaningful way to spend the summer and the Holy Week."

According to Abalos, this year's volunteers were GK Bayani Challenge's biggest initiative. It was a mission, a gathering and a celebration. Some of the activities were the school refurbishing in the Sta. Fe Central School; and a health build to develop nutrition programs that will provide nutritious check-up and consultancy in barangay health centers." As Gawad Kalinga believes, "a healthy people is a healthy nation."

House builds were done in the resettlement of Binabuyan in Tunali, Brgy. Tiral. Volunteers attached walls, painted walls and did landscaping. The Bantayan Pandesia aviation, streamside, gathered beds for storytelling, games, and sports clinics.

School refurbishing, island greening (coastal cleanups, mangrove planting and tree planting) and farm building also made Bayani Challenge an all-encompassing adventure.

Education and awareness still played a big role in the GK Bayani Challenge 2013. A Filipino Basin forum was held to underscore the importance of local government units in national efforts to build the nation. Hosted by Mayor Ian Christopher Gonzaga Incarnation, Cebu, the forum also welcomed guest speakers such as Secretary Hermino "Sonny" Coloma and Secretary Jose Ann Abad Dapitanan of the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO), Cardinal Governor Arturo Tz, Cebu Governor Gwen Garcia, Tony Meloto and Secretary Bro. Armin Luistro of the Department of Education.

"Cebu is the most strategic convergence point for everyone including volunteers who would come from abroad. We are aiming for the sunrise—highlighting that we can have a newborn nation if Filipinos from all walks of life can share the same mission and passion," Meloto said. "Next year, it will be even more exciting as it will be held in seven different provinces," Meloto shared. Bayani Challenge isn't over. It's just starting to get better.

"There is always more to extend than the books we closed and send the cranks we closed to pass. At the end of the day, we find better learnings through the things we do for others, fighting poverty as that.

Pacific Rims trade paperback now available

FILIPINOS ARE famous for their unparalleled devotion to basketball. The whole world probably knows it, even your inclining nonbasketballer, Pedro Penduncurro. A Pat Delight-ridden and outfit-criticized basketball lover, Bandicurro spent three years in Manila to witness firsthand the against-all-odds pursuit of Filipinos in the sport.

The connection eventually led to this release of his book, Pacific Rims, a strange chronicle of lived experiences stuffed with obscure-to-us details about basketball. The book highlights his unlikely journey with professional basketball team Alaska Aces, providing him with a more in-depth account of the basketball scene in the country.

Pacific Rims gained various positive reviews from readers and critics alike after it was launched in August of last year. Recently, the trade paperback edition had its worldwide premiere last May 12 at Shakespeare Bookstore Galleria. The event was attended by around 75 fans, who all enjoyed the privilege of having their copies signed by no less than Bandicurro himself. Tony dela Cruz of the Manila Bulletin was also spotted at the scene, expressing his support to the author.

Hosted by Sandra Fumes-Padilla, MBT merchandising director for books, the program consisted of a short interview with Bob read an open forum, wherein fans got the chance to ask the author anything under the sun—from his current work to what he looks forward to when visiting the Philippines (spoilers: it's food for food chain, he quipped).

Pacific Rims is available at National Book Stores for P599.

Free Comic Book Day in Bestsellers

DARKHORSE, fans were treated to a day of free comic books, sketches, and more last Saturday, May 21, at Bestsellers in Robinsons Galleria.

Amazing Spiderman, Captain America and Thor, and Young Justice and Batman Brave and Bold comic books, among others were distributed to some 200 event attendees absolutely free. Those who purchased graphic novels—not only in Bestsellers, but in any National Book Store nationwide—enjoyed a 20% discount on select local and imported comics. Not only that, customers got a raffle coupon to win a limited-edition Apple iPad signed by Clint Hendricks co-creator David Lloyd. The winners will be announced in MBT facebook page.

Top Filipino graphic novel artists in the country such as Kenny Tolibao, Carlo Pagulayan, Kajo Baldisimo, Stephen Segovia, and Ariel Padilla gave away free sketches and signed books.

This event was mounted in a partnership with Shortspud Studios to promote MBT comics soon to be released to eight bi-weekly series Metro Manila. Previously, similar events were held in Power Plant Mall, Alabang Town Center, and Trinoma.

Moleskine Limited Edition Le Petit Prince now available at National Book Store

THE LITTLE Prince limited edition features a customized notebook, paper band and inside cover with art from the book, based details anyone the magic and wonder of the story. As stated in "le case of love" message reads:

"In case of love, return to planet..." and "for a reward...my secret about..."

The pocket size notebook includes a globe-shaped cut-out of the Prince enjoying a "perpetual sunset" on his home planet.

Each Le Petit Prince special edition comes with a cut out scene from the story indicated away on the rear notebook pocket. The pocket size notebook includes a globe-shaped cut-out of the Prince enjoying a "perpetual sunset" on his home planet. The large size notebook includes a 2D landscape where the Prince meets the fox and muses him.

The large size notebook includes a 2D landscape where the Prince meets the fox and muses him.

The Little Prince, by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, is the story of an aviator who has crashed in the Sahara desert where he meets the Prince. As the reader hears the story of the Prince the reader meets a series of fantastic characters and is inspired by subtle insights into human nature.

The novella was originally published in 1943 and has become one of the most beloved and bestselling books of all time. It has been translated into more than 180 languages and has sold more than 80 million copies worldwide.

The Moleskine Limited Edition The LITTLE Prince is now available in selected National Book Store branches. Visit the Moleskine flagship store at SM Aura, Bell 1 for the most complete selection of Moleskine products in the Philippines.

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Developing the right attitude towards learning

Children should also learn basic social and self-management skills

By Marlen D. Salazar

SCHOOL really can young for a 3-year-old children go to school? Many parents today time are opening their kindergarten should start early on middle.

Some independent studies show that toddlers are more receptive then adults. They can easily absorb lessons or things going's much those while they are still very young.

People from Western Philippines know that sending their young preschoolers more than even science things not only about school but also in life. "The Educational Stage (2 months to 5 years old) is the best time to start teaching a child about school."

Infants may not be able to articulate what they want to say but critics how they react when their parents talk to them. They are already developing social skills without their parents really realizing it.

An easy to learn activities, shapes, and sizes, it's also the best time to introduce them to the idea of school.

"Providing him a positive outlook about school will eventually help lay foundations for love toward learning and studying, with its experiences about school, and it is enable someone to excel in his time in general."

So how can parents prepare their kids for school? It's difficult for parents to see and leave them a long period for the short time.

According to Kristine Ritz, "Some parents continue to traumatize the child to learn more even before pre-school, this will help the child but time many could draw and mechanics created the idea of going to a school."

"Other than academics, it is also important to develop in the child to be right attitude toward learning. Having both the ability (academic) and attitude can almost ensure that a child's success in pursuit can be achieved easily."

"Telling and reminding him when to do may not be enough. Children are masters of mimicry. They would do what adults do so parents are encouraged to be their own models.

"A child learns more flip the pages of a book when he sees his own parents reading. He knows she believes and turns on to social lives to appreciate the pictures and appreciate the texts. It can also be an educated in children as a fun activity by reading together. Many children are consistently the potential application of their school learning."

Parents' role

However, for children as young learning it should not be forced on them. Parents should ensure that they have the best activities only appreciate it as part of their lives instead of work or a chore.

By spending more time with children, parents will find more chances to discover their hidden potentials and interests. Intimate times have their value of when their children wanted to hear stories they grow up. At the end they find that it was not what they said, was it is best to support them. If parents insist on what they want, there is a danger that the child will not achieve anything in life. What would they do something they don't want to do?

Parents should act as first teachers then support to children as up a notch higher to learning. Deciding them on a school should not be treated the dump-my-them-there and let the teachers do-all the teaching. "The overall experience of the child's education is on the shoulder of the parents. Parents are the main teachers and schools play a secondary role. Parents should make sure follow up on the child's homework, progress, etc. Constant communication with the teachers to know the child's progress is very important."

Meeting with the children's teachers

Why your child needs a tutor

By Jing Lojera

LET'S FACE it: School is just not what it used to be. There are more lessons and more projects, but less time to learn and do everything. There are more students, but fewer teachers to guide them. There's a lot of information, but less time to analyze and understand them.

Precious Lhuzado, Ahead Tutorial and Review Center president, explains, "The pressure to excel among children is overwhelming. Today's boomer technology has made the world smaller. Time, the Internet can make an overnight transition of a product's life cycle. But in the same regard, it has also broken down national barriers. In order for a person to succeed, he must strive to be the very best in order to globally competitive."

Getting a good education has more than become more important than ever. Preschoolers are primed to get to in the best "big school." Students in the primary levels are motivated to get the best grades. High schoolers are encouraged to get into the most prestigious. It's undeniable that their future lives become extremely especially in this highly competitive academic environment.

There are a variety of reasons why your child may want to have a tutor.

He doesn't want to be left behind. The fast paced academic environment is already a given. Unfortunately, not all children are created equal. Not all of them could manage all the requirements. Not all of them could catch up so easily. In such cases, it would do well for parents to get the help of a competent tutor so that his child does not get left behind. Don't wait until your child starts getting low marks. Prevention is the best cure, so address the issue as soon as you see your child struggling with his lessons or barely managing to finish his projects.

He wants to excel. In the information age, it's not enough to read through books and books of information all the time test. The questions from your child understand what he's reading? In the ideal world, you would have the time to go through all these lessons with your child. But the world is far from ideal. You and your partner work for a living, leaving you little time to spend with your child. Besides, teaching is not exactly your cup of tea. You wouldn't be able to successfully explain to your child the fundamentals of physics even if you wanted to.

He wants to succeed. But the most important reason why your child needs a tutor is that he wants to be a huge success. As quoted as he with the story of the world, he knows that in today's success can easily translate to personal success. He is willing to work hard at it. It's not just about learning how to solve linear equations. It's about knowing how to work your way around a problem. It's not just about passing as a good presentation. It's about learning how to work with a team.

"Every child wants to succeed, and it's our obligation as parents to help them," says Lhuzado.

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